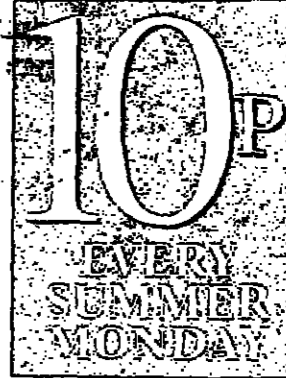


EXCLUSIVE EURO 96 DIARY Terry Venables on the truth behind the Cathay Pacific trip PAGE 27



SECTION 3 How to get back into the university game: 14-page up to the minute guide to degree courses



Hunt for victims of child sex ring

Man held as Belgian police find two bodies under patio



FROM ROGER BOYES IN CHARLEROI

BELGIAN police are convinced they are on the trail of a gang of murderous paedophiles after discovering the decaying bodies of two eight-year-old girls at the weekend.

bodies of abused and missing children at various locations. Mr Bourlet says that at least seven victims have been cruelly treated and killed since 1980.

ren had died. Another corpse - believed to be an adult male accomplice who wanted to betray Mr Dutroux - was also excavated from under the tiled patio in Mr Dutroux's garden.

describe the terraced building as a "house of horror", but, as in the case of the Wests, there was nothing remarkable about the narrow building and its small garden.

pear and you think: they are ill. They are lost, they will come back. Instead, they may be in a hole.

basement of the house near Charleroi. Mr Dutroux showed police a hidden entrance to the cubbyhole. The girls were not seriously injured, but the parents of Laetitia say she was raped. Both girls were drugged and sexually abused.

Ministers split over ID card squabbles

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND RICHARD FORD

MICHAEL HOWARD is facing a backlash among Conservative backbench MPs angered that the Union Jack might be dropped from the national identity card to avoid offending nationalists in Northern Ireland.

The final details of the voluntary card have yet to be agreed after days of Whitehall infighting over the EU and UK symbols which will appear on the small plastic document.

Home Office sources last night blamed the Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, for agreeing to allow the EU flag to be included on the new driving licence which will be combined with the identity card.

The sources claimed that Sir George, an ardent pro-European, had already agreed that the distinctive flag of 12 gold stars against a blue background should be on the licence. His move had left the Home Secretary with no room to manoeuvre on getting it removed.

Mr Howard's move to place the Union Jack alongside the EU flag was blocked by Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, who warned that flags were a highly sensitive issue in the province.

Instead the Royal Crest is the most favoured option to appear alongside the EU flag. But the move has infuriated Conservative backbenchers, who accused the Government of giving in to nationalists and Dublin.

David Wilshire, the vice-chairman of the Tory backbench Northern Ireland committee, said: "It is staggering. It shows the extent to which the Government is prepared to appease and sell out

to Dublin. The English will not tolerate being told that we cannot display our UK status because a few hundred thousand people will not like it."

Nicholas Winterton, Conservative MP for Macclesfield, said: "This is our national flag and if people don't want to live in this country they can get out."

Mr Howard had planned to announce the Government's intention to bring in a voluntary scheme today but the launch has been delayed because of the Whitehall battle. Now John Major is expected to settle the dispute.

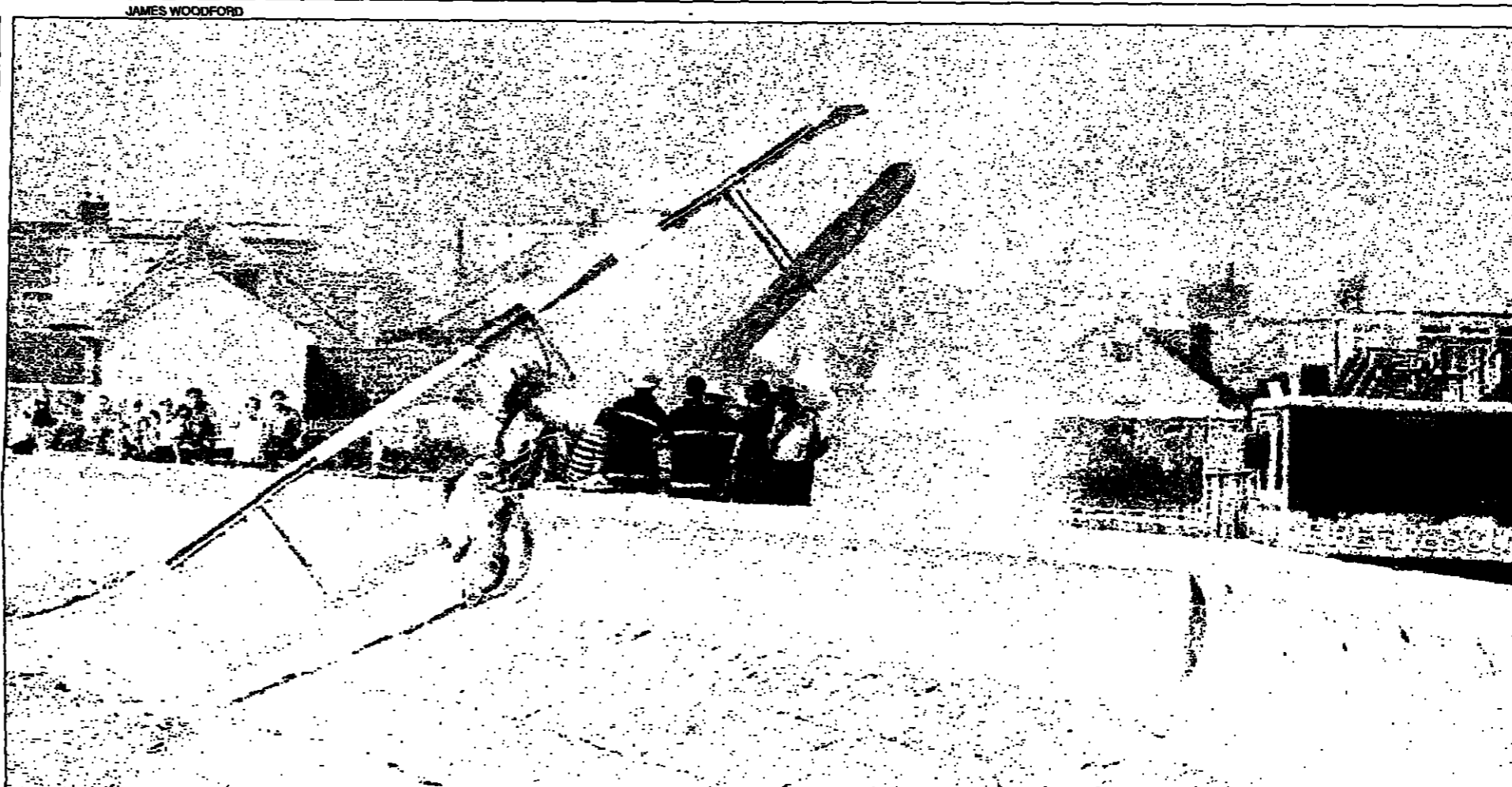
The Prime Minister, who returned from holiday yesterday, has been kept closely informed while abroad and will be involved in last-minute discussions this week.

Mr Major is anxious to prevent the dispute over the appearance of the card delaying or overshadowing the launch of a scheme that has already attracted vehement opposition from Tories. Mr Howard was jecred when he unveiled his plans for a voluntary scheme at the Tory party conference in 1994.

Leading article, page 19



"You'll never catch me walking around with one of them"



Joan McInerney, 65, was trapped for an hour under this Tiger Moth after it crash-landed on the promenade at Jaywick, Essex, yesterday. Mrs McInerney, who had been walking her dog, was taken to hospital with serious head, leg and chest injuries. The pilot, Joan Parry, 45, who was flying to a rally in Woburn, Bedfordshire, had only minor injuries

Students compete for fewer places

BY JOHN O'LEARY

TENS of thousands of students will be competing for fewer university places than at any time since a single system was established when the clearing process for rejected applicants opens today.

For the first time, more than 200,000 higher education places have been filled before clearing begins. Universities are expected to make offers to up to 60,000 more candidates this week, leaving the opportunities for second-chance applications down by a quarter.

Tony Higgins, the Chief Executive of the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service, said that record A-level results and a reduction in the number of initial choices had contributed to the speedier allocation of places.

Course guide, Section 3

British magnate's son shot dead in Honduras

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

WILLIAM WATES, 19, son of Andrew Wates, the multimillionaire builder and part-owner of Rough Quest, this year's Grand National winner, has been shot dead in Honduras.

Police believe the young Briton was waylaid by robbers at Arenales, near Danli, 50 miles east of Tegucigalpa, the Honduran capital. His body was found beside a road last Thursday.

Mr Wates had been travelling in South and Central America for four months after spending two months with World Challenge, a voluntary organisation in Ecuador. Detectives in Honduras are seeking two men thought to have left a hotel in Danli.

studying ancient history at Nottingham University. His father is chairman of Wates Leisure and a director of Wates Building Group, the family construction firm. He and Tim, 30, his eldest son, are flying to Honduras today.

The family learnt of the young man's murder on Friday. As his mother Sarah was being comforted by friends, Mr Wates, 55, went ahead with plans to host a previously scheduled open day for employees at Henfold House, his country mansion in the Surrey Downs near Beare Green, Dorking.

As he entertained staff, none of whom knew of the tragedy, he said: "William had a great future ahead of him. We will miss him desperately. This news has come as a terrible shock to us. William was a

much loved son and brother, with a wide circle of friends. We spoke to him last Sunday - he was having a marvellous time and looking forward to coming home. It is hard to imagine a more enthusiastic, more likeable, happier, kinder person. He had a gift for friendship."

Mr Wates, a prominent figure in the racing community, rode in the 1968 Grand National and won the Foxhunters at Aintree. He is a close friend of the Royal trainer Ian Balding, and takes an active part in preparing horses at the Henfold House stables, where Rough Quest was trained.

He praised the British Ambassador in Honduras, but said details of the incident were still scant: "I'm still not

Continued on page 2, col 6

Thou shalt not steal from the collection plate

BY RUTH GLEDHILL RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

NEW accounting rules are to be sent to all vicars to make it harder for them to break the eighth commandment: "Thou shalt not steal."

The Church of England has decided that clergy should not be led into temptation by the haphazard and idiosyncratic accounting methods that have sprung up in many of the 13,000 parishes in England.

Collections will no longer be entrusted to individuals to count - an independent party will be present to check the figures - while proper systems will also be demanded for signing cheques, paying into banks and opening envelopes containing cash. The change is designed to prevent cases such as one reported this year, where a vicar and churchwarden were accused of stealing more than £7,000.

The Church has also decided to change the way parochial church councils, which manage their local church, run their finances. Although church councils need not register as charities, they are in effect charitable bodies and as such are to be brought into line with new legislation on accountability in the 1993 Charities Act. Although there is no evidence of widespread fraud, church managers concede that vicars or their staff occasionally do succumb. The problem has arisen because the management of church councils has until now depended on trust.

Parishioners assume that their offerings will be used for the purposes for which they were given. But in a world where the pressure for financial achievement has never been greater, church leaders acknowledge that temptation can prove hard to resist.

Brian McHenry, a barrister and a leading lay member of the General Synod, who helped to initiate the changes, said he knew of few cases of outright fraud. "But transparency is critical. People want to know that when they are giving money, it is being handled in the proper way."

The Times on the Internet http://www.the-times.co.uk



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WE'LL GIVE YOU YOUR AMERICAN EXPRESS TRAVELLERS CHEQUES PRONTO. NOT MAÑANA. American Express Travellers Cheques on the spot at Lloyds Bank.

Belgian paedophile case highlights an international business involving 200 gangs in Britain alone



Two months after she was kidnapped, Sabine Dardenne, 12, is helped into a police car before being reunited with her parents. She was found with Laetitia Delheze, 14, who had been abducted on August 9

A sinister global enterprise of malign ingenuity

By RICHARD FORD

THE discovery in southern Belgium of the bodies of children in the garden of a convicted paedophile has highlighted the sinister multimillion-pound business of worldwide child sexual abuse. It is a global enterprise involving paedophile rings, child sex tourism preying on pre-pubescent children in the Far East, hardcore porn videos and abduction.

Paedophiles can network within jails or after infiltrating schools, children's homes and other organisations working with young people. Once employed in the organisations they exchange information about "available" children to other rings either abroad, where child prostitution is rife, or inner cities, where children are on the streets.

Within the rings paedophiles exchange photographs, contact magazines and addresses. Chief Superintendent Brian Mackenzie, president of the Police Superintendents' Association, said yesterday: "They operate like any other special interest group. Networks and rings form by word of mouth."

Paedophiles are frequently obsessive and meticulous organisers. Mr Mackenzie added: "They are prolific organisers and paedophilia is an obsession involving a lot of planning and plotting against their victims."

In some rings paedophiles will use abducted children for the making of home-made videos of sex acts. Videotapes of children taking part in sexual activity with middle-aged men can fetch up to £250 each.

Technological developments are also helping paedophiles and child pornographers to preserve their secrecy and escape justice. Alarm has grown within the police that they are using new encoding techniques allowing them to contact each other without outside knowledge.

They post pornography on the Internet together with instructions on how to use encryption to safeguard themselves. Films and still pictures can be transmitted through the system, which links home computers via phone lines. Paedophiles' network across the world to exchange information and experiences. In "Operation Stardust" last year, police discovered pictures on the Internet of children as young as three involved in sexual acts. Three main types of paedophile have emerged: the offender who seduces pre-pubescent children with attention and gifts over a period of time; the introverted offender who is likely to abuse strangers or young children and the sadistic offender.

Prayers and blame over nation's lost innocents

FROM ROGER BOYES IN CHARLEROI

FROM the church of St Christopher to the church of Our Lady, the distressed burghers of Charleroi were on their knees yesterday praying for the safety of their children.

As mechanical diggers carved out holes in the back garden of Marc Dutroux in the search for more corpses, so the citizens of Charleroi began to take stock.

"It is the worst disaster since the Bois du Cazier," said 60-year-old Mireille Dumont, comparing the new horror to the biggest mining disaster in the Belgian Black Country. More than 250 died in 1956, scarring the memories of a generation.

That disaster also happened in a hot August. This time the death toll is far lower, but again the whole community feels as if everyone is affected.

Everybody knows the names of the two eight-year-olds, Julie and Mélissa, dug up from the garden. For 14 months, their parents have plastered the pictures of these two children on bridges and stuck posters on walls in railway stations and supermarkets. The slogan said "Mélissa and Julie SOS", with a telephone number.

Local people yesterday lined up to place flowers on the doorsteps of the parents whose houses were shuttered in mourning. Schools are still on holiday, but the children have begun to return to the city and, in an ineffectual gesture, many parents are confining them to their houses.

Despite the arrest of Mr Dutroux and his alleged accomplice, there is still a deep feeling of unease. Henri Trousson, a barman, said: "This is something fundamental. A city has somehow failed its children."

The failure is almost inevitably laid on the shoulders of the police. The list of disappearing children is a long one, as if a benighted Pied Piper had somehow lured them all away and into a distant mountain.

But in this dark, heavily industrialised city, full of smoke and circled by disused coalpits, it was always easier to concentrate on keeping jobs than on the needs of the younger generation.



Flowers hanging on a poster of two missing girls



Marc Dutroux and, below, the house of secrets



Hunt for sex ring victims

Continued from page 1 newspaper that a network of paedophiles has been at work. Police have raided 11 houses and detained three more people. "Books by the Marquis de Sade and a number of video tapes were seized during one of the raids," said one Belgian journalist close to the police.

Julie Lejeune and Mélissa Russo — disappeared 14 months ago. Their parents have travelled the world following tip-offs about their whereabouts, including a visit to South America. Yet both Mr Dutroux and Michelle Martin — who denies involvement in any crime — were on the police computers. According to newspaper reports, Mr Dutroux was jailed for 13 years in 1989 on kidnapping, rape and sexual abuse, while

his wife was imprisoned for six years. Three years later they were freed and living again in the Charleroi area. Although Mr Dutroux was questioned by police in a separate case last winter, he was freed without charge. Some of the seven bodies unearthed were killed as long ago as 1989. Belgians are outraged that the couple were not more thoroughly investigated when the two eight-year-olds disappeared in June 1995.



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The GMT-Master II worn by Concorde Captain Steve Wand allows him to read London time with the conventional hour

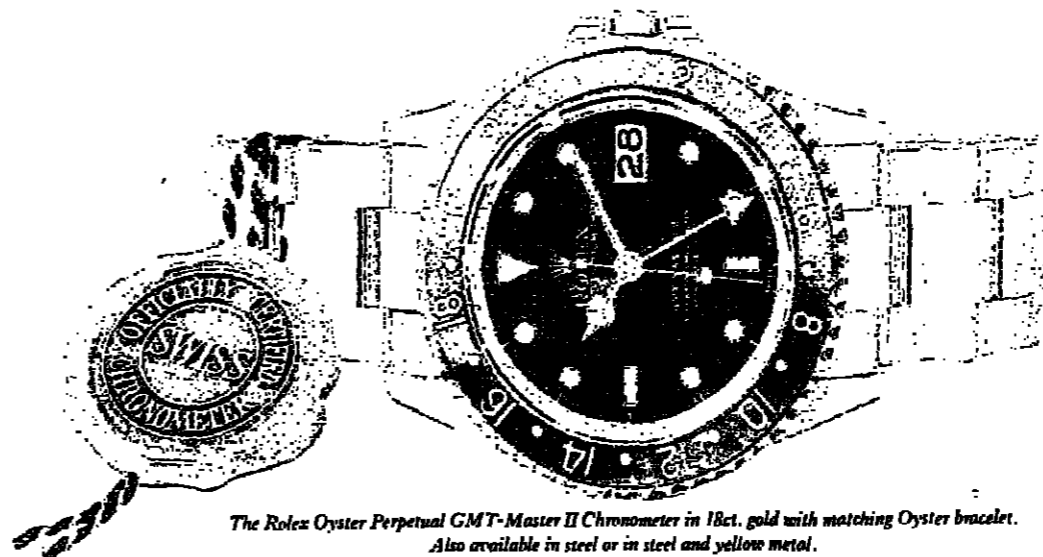
and minute hands, and he can read New York time with the 24-hour hand and the clearly marked rotating bezel that is the hallmark of this classic design.

Says Captain Wand: "My GMT-Master II is like Concorde. When you settle on a design that is successful, you want to keep it."

You'll agree, even if you don't fly quite as often as he does.

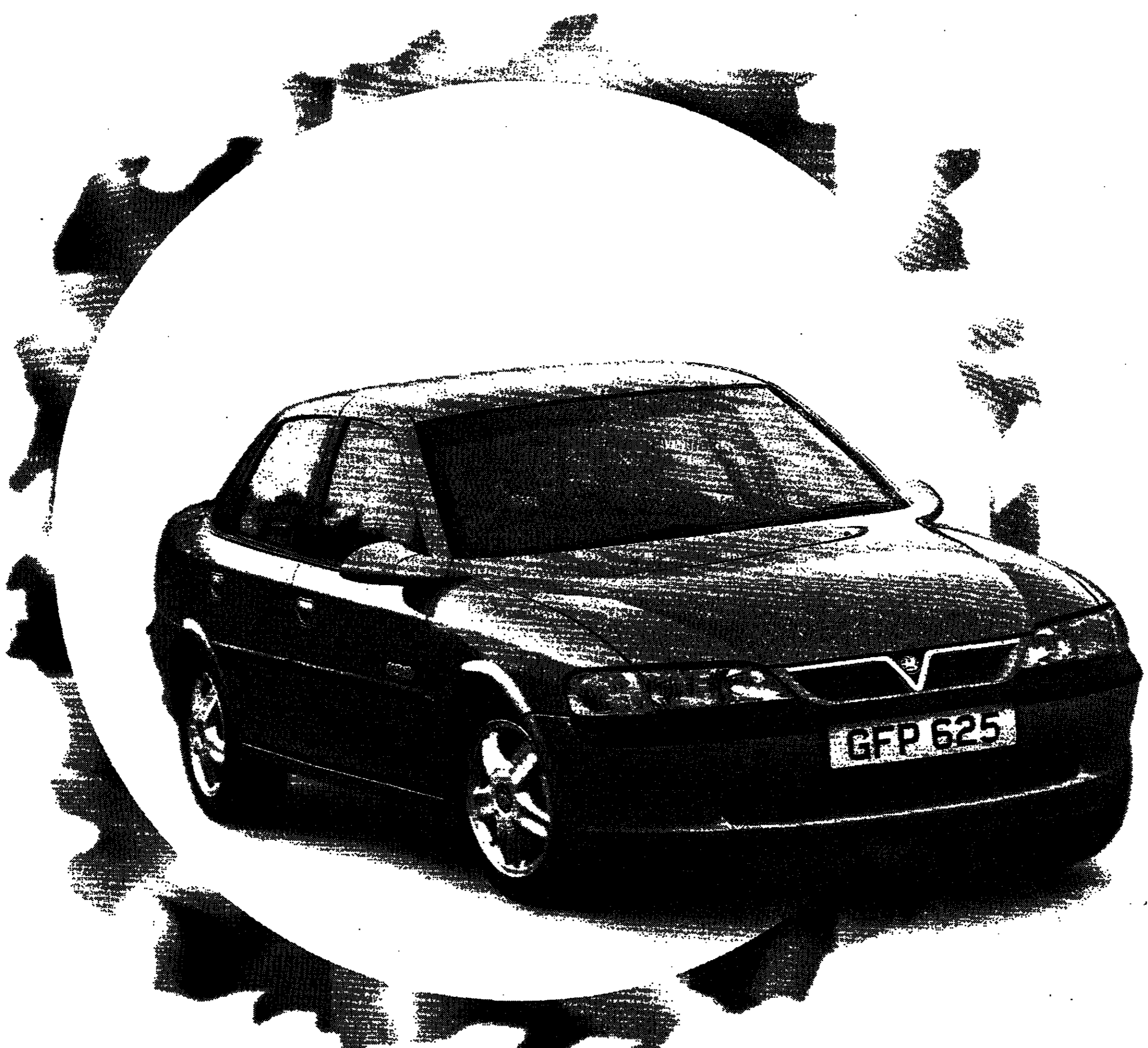



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THE TIMES
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'Public access pathways are being used so that photographers can virtually spy on the Royal Family'

Freelance plans to ignore Queen's plea for privacy

By EMMA WILKINS

BUCKINGHAM Palace officials will discuss today whether to begin legal action against a group of freelance photographers who have been told to stay away from the Balmoral estate.

Jim Bennett, 49, one of the four paparazzi to have received letters from lawyers acting for the Queen, said yesterday that he had no intention of agreeing to the request. Mr Bennett's decision came as it emerged that the Queen requested the move to secure some privacy for her grandchildren.

Senior members of the Royal Family are becoming increasingly concerned at the effects of media intrusion on the younger royals, especially Prince William. The 14-year-old Prince, who has become a prime target for the long lenses of the paparazzi, has told the Prince of Wales of his worries about being photographed during the summer holidays.

Prince William arrives at Balmoral later this week with Prince Harry and the Prince of Wales. They join the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Princess Royal and Prince Andrew with Princesses Beatrice and Eugenie.

"The legal action is designed to give the younger members of the Royal Family a bit of privacy," a Buckingham Pal-



A Special Branch officer advising photographers outside the church attended by the Queen yesterday

ace spokeswoman said. "The Queen wants younger members of the family to enjoy the estate as much as she does herself.

"It's very difficult for them to enjoy their holidays when people are peering at them through long lenses - even if it is from a public footpath. These public-access pathways are being used so that photographers can virtually spy on members of the Royal Family who are just trying to spend a few moments alone with the young ones," she said.

Royal aides have been discussing for months the poten-

tial problems if young Royals become resentful of the media. In due course, Prince William will take up public duties which involve co-operation with the press and television. An amicable relationship is unlikely if the young prince is alienated by the media at an early age.

The Queen asked the trustees of Balmoral Estate to write to the photographers 2 1/2 weeks ago, requiring them not to enter the estate again without permission. They were given until last Friday to sign an undertaking agreeing to the ban. If the Queen's request

is ignored, an injunction will be sought to keep them outside an "exclusion zone" around the estate.

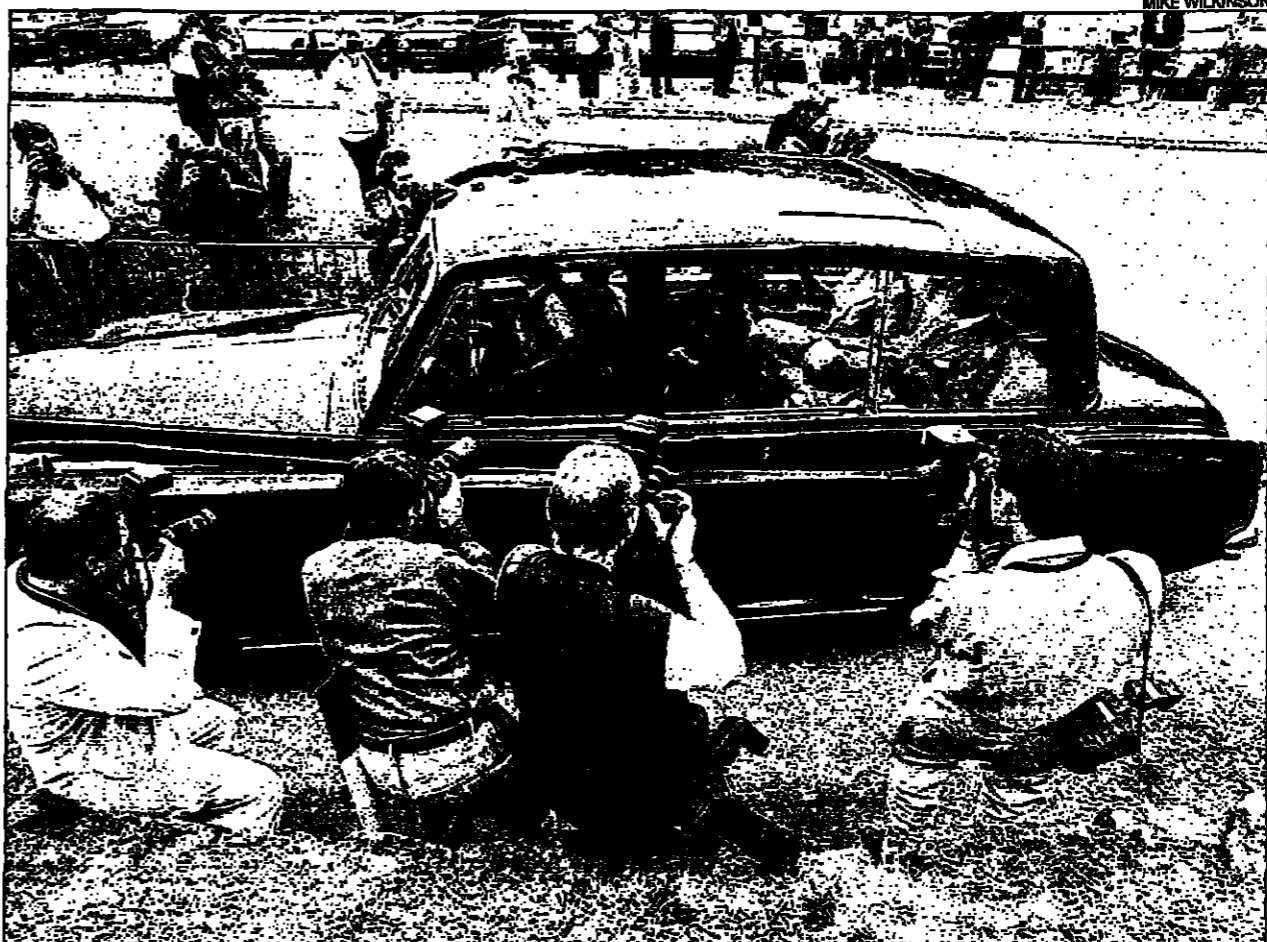
Mr Bennett, who is the only one to have responded, said that he had written to his lawyers defending his actions and contesting the grounds for a ban. "In my opinion, they [the trustees] are not yet in a position to stop people from doing public walks. Every map of the area shows it is a public walkway on which people are encouraged to walk.

"It is not my fault that, out of 50,000 acres, Prince Charles and his two sons decided to have a meal at a spot where the public can go."

He was referring to a confrontation on April 13 when Mr Bennett and four other freelancers noticed the Prince of Wales with his sons heading for the Glas-Ait-Shiel lodge house on the shores of Loch Muick. Mr Bennett said that he and his colleagues were stopped by two Special Branch officers shortly after they had left the public car park.

He claimed that the officers had said photographers could not go up there with their cameras as it was private land. Mr Bennett and his colleagues disputed this. Four photographers, including Mr Bennett, carried on and one turned back.

Mr Bennett, who said he



Photographers in waiting yesterday as members of the Royal Family arrive at Crathie Church on the Balmoral estate

had been shocked to receive the letter from the Queen's lawyers, was anxious to distance himself from Martin Stenning, the former dispatch rider who is the subject of a separate injunction by the Princess of Wales.

"I am a professional and the reason I am speaking out is that I do not want to be tarred with the same brush as that photographer in London," he said. "I have been covering the Royal Family for 15 years and I have never had any major problem."

Mr Stenning, who is banned from approaching the Princess, was attacked in the street outside his home in Southwark, south London, early yesterday. Two men approached him, one claimed he had insulted his friend, and promptly gave Mr Stenning a

black eye. Officers are now waiting to take a full statement from Mr Stenning today.

A dozen press photographers, including three paparazzi from London, were taking pictures of the Royal Family at Balmoral yesterday, when the Queen attended Crathie Church, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, the Duke of York and Princesses Beatrice and Eugenie. The

Princess Royal and Commander Tim Laurence, who were married at the church, were also present.

It was the first church service during the Royal Family's annual two-month holiday in the Highlands. About 400 well-wishers - the largest number for several years - gathered outside the church to catch a glimpse of the Royal party.

Mourning for murdered vicar at communion

By PAUL WILKINSON

PARISHIONERS of the Rev Christopher Gray, the clergyman killed outside his own church last week, gathered there yesterday in sombre mood for the first Sunday communion since his death. Some wore black and others wept as they arrived at the modern brick and glass building in the heart of a run-down inner city area less than a mile from the Anfield home of Liverpool Football Club.

At the church entrance were two tables covered with letters and cards carrying condolences from churches of all faiths all over the country. Most offered sympathy and support but one card, from a bouquet left by a wry Scouse wag, summed up the clergyman who achieved an Oxford double first but elected to serve the people of a decaying urban parish: "Brilliant, but rubbish at pub quizzes."

Many of the parishioners had walked past the spot on the street only yards from the entrance to St Margaret's Church where Mr Gray, 32, had been fatally wounded early last Tuesday morning, apparently as he counselled a distressed man.

Yesterday's service was conducted by the Archdeacon of Liverpool, the Ven Robert Metcalf. Before the service he said: "This is a bereaved community, a bereaved family, and it is my pastoral duty as a priest to be here with them today to lend my support. This is the normal Sunday Eucharist which Christopher would usually have conducted himself." Al-

most 150 members of the parish joined him in singing hymns selected specially for the occasion. They included "Oh Jesus I have promised to serve thee to the end", and the readings included the celebrated Old Testament passage from Micah looking forward to the day when swords would be turned into plough shares.

In his address the Archdeacon said he had first met Mr Gray when he wanted to become a curate in Liverpool. "I recognised a brilliant young man who had so much to offer. He said he wanted to serve in urban Liverpool... he was saying clearly that he believed God had called him to be a priest and that he was responding to that call, a sacrifice of other possible careers and ultimately a sacrifice of his life when fulfilling that calling. I had met a man of deep faith, one which he sought to share with others."

"Christopher followed in his Master's footsteps, he did not seek gain for himself, he cared humbly for the people who needed to know God's love. The finest tribute to his Christian ministry is to continue it."

The Bishop of Liverpool, the Right Rev David Sheppard, during his sermon in the Anglican cathedral in Liverpool, also referred to the death of Mr Gray. He asked his congregation to believe that "at the end of a dark week", there was still hope that young men and women like Mr Gray would respond to God's calling and turn away from financially profitable jobs to serve people in other ways.

Police link attacks to Caroline's murderer

By JOANNA BALE

FRENCH police believe that the man who raped and murdered the British schoolgirl Caroline Dickinson could be responsible for three similar incidents at youth hostels in Brittany.

On July 18, a man tried to suffocate a British schoolgirl in the resort of St Lunaire, three hours before Caroline, 13, from Launceston, Cornwall, was murdered at another hostel 25 miles away in Pleine Fougères, it was reported yesterday.

The 14-year-old victim from Salford, Greater Manchester, was saved when one of the girls sharing a room with her was woken by her choking and shouted at the attacker. The man ran off, but a teacher allegedly did not believe the story and the matter was not reported until the party returned to England and heard about Caroline's death.

Asked why French police had not immediately been informed, the headmaster of Hope High School, Alan Hewitt, said yesterday that the incident had happened the night before they were to return home. "It was reported to the British police when we heard that Caroline Dickinson had been murdered. Naturally, everyone feels very uneasy that the two may be linked."

The French detectives in Launceston have details of two other incidents in hostels in the St Malo area. On July 15, a Dutch student awoke to find a man leaning over her bed. She screamed and he fled. On August 10 a man entered several rooms in another hostel.

Wily old seabird outlives albatross to take record

A SEABIRD which nests every year on an uninhabited Orkney island has gone into the record book as the oldest known wild bird in the world. The female fulmar is aged more than 50.

Scientists have been monitoring the bird on Eynhallow since the early 1950s and are astonished at how long it has lasted.

Peter Cosgrove of Aberdeen University said: "It still has beautiful white feathers, not like an old bird at all."

He said the fulmar had officially become the world's oldest bird after a black-browed albatross ringed at the same time failed to return to its nesting site in New Zealand this year. The fulmar, known to scientists as number 57, was one of the first birds to be ringed when a research project, headed by the late George Dunnet, started in 1951. Dr Cosgrove, who took over



The fulmar: no predators

the project last year, said: "This is the longest-running bird study in the world. When we heard the New Zealand albatross had not returned, we knew our bird was the oldest. Fulmars have no natural predators and they just seem to go on and on. Most reach about 20 or 30 years old. Number 57 still returns to Orkney to breed most years. She is quite exceptional."

Fulmars (*Fulmarus glacialis*) are members of the petrel family. Dr Cosgrove described them as Britain's version of the albatross. At the

end of the 19th century the only breeding colony in Britain was on St Kilda, where the islanders caught them for food and fuel.

With the advent of industrial fishing, the fulmar spread through the country and there is now a population on virtually every sea cliff. The birds defend themselves by spitting out a vile, oily liquid, the smell of which can persist on a victim for more than a week.

Dr Cosgrove said: "Fulmars have proved a great success story since the turn of the century. One thing we do not yet know is whether the birds go through a menopause."

He did not doubt that there were wild parrots in South American jungles older than the Orkney fulmar, but none had been ringed or recorded. Eynhallow, the site of a 14th-century monastery, lost its human population to smallpox in the 19th century.

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Action to tackle inner-city vehicle pollution 'getting nowhere'

By Peter Foster

PLANS to set up "pollution police" to clamp down on drivers of vehicles with illegal exhaust emissions are floundering because of bureaucratic delays and lack of funding, according to motoring groups and local authorities.

Chris Cawley, assistant director for pollution at Westminster City Council, said: "We were told by ministers in February we would have lasting powers and that they wanted to get on with it. Six months later we haven't even seen draft regulations."

Whitehall bureaucracy is sitting on its hands." The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) said yesterday that it would not commit itself to emissions testing until it was certain that councils would pay for police time.

POLLUTION HOTLINES

Smoky vehicles can be reported to the Vehicles Inspectorate on regional hotlines. Callers must give their name and address, the registration number of the vehicle and the time, place and date of sighting. If your vehicle is reported you will be given ten days to obtain a clean emissions certificate from your local test centre.

Bristol and Canterbury City Councils, who have lobbied hard to be part of the trials, both called for government money to back the project. Andrew Roberts, director of architecture and engineering at Canterbury, said: "We are very aware of the impact of the motor vehicle on our day-to-day lives but would need government assistance to get

dealing with pollution. He said: "The self-financing scheme is fraught with problems. The Home Office has said the on-the-spot fines shouldn't be much more than £40, which makes the financial viability of the scheme extremely questionable."

Leading article, page 19

Poor diet, unhealthy habits and lack of fitness are crippling Britain's dancers, report says

Dancing on air, gasping for a beer and a smoke

By Dominic Kennedy, Social Affairs Correspondent

THE dying swan in Swan Lake may really be dying for a cigarette, a bar of chocolate and glass of beer, according to a health survey of Britain's dancers.

More than eight out of ten professional dancers are injured each year because their bodies are left vulnerable by poor diet, long hours and draughty rehearsal rooms.



Grace under pressure: amateur dancers taking a break during rehearsals. Professionals are not much fitter than even the average Briton



Bannerman: given a lift by weight-training

healthy lifestyles and poor fitness training. More than eight out of ten professional dancers are injured each year because their bodies are left vulnerable by poor diet, long hours and draughty rehearsal rooms.

nutrition tests. The researchers concluded that dancers in Britain were less aerobically fit than counterparts in the United States and Russia.

Kats and Coke". They eat more fatty foods than other sportspeople and fewer fruit and vegetables. To replace fluid, they mistakenly drink strong tea, coffee, beer, lager and wine.

able and partly to suppress appetite." Professor Christopher Bannerman, one of the report's editorial team, remembers how he was left incapable of tying his shoe-laces for three months because of a back injury with London Contemporary Dance Theatre.

one else was going down to the ground so soon. I was fit for the first time." Professor Bannerman, now head of dance at Middlesex University, said: "Some dancers are marginally more fit than the average person in the street in terms of aerobic fitness. They say: 'I want to express myself and look beautiful - I don't want to jog.'"

The cost can be high. One commercial management spent £38,000 on understudies and extra rehearsals to replace injured dancers.

Specialist halts octuplets treatment after authority refuses to pay

By Dominic Kennedy

A SPECIALIST in multiple births has stopped treating Mandy Allwood, the mother expecting octuplets, because a health authority has refused to pay for his services.

well close to her home in the Midlands. A spokeswoman for King's said yesterday: "Without that referral, she is not Kypros' patient." He had declined to treat her without charge as that would set a precedent.

Nicolaides, but the cost has been estimated at £500,000 if all the babies are born alive. She could try to continue treatment with him by appealing to medical charities or by changing GP.

News of the World. Solihull wants her to discuss her maternity care and does not rule out a later referral to the specialist hospital.

identical twins. She first felt them kicking last Thursday. Professor Nicolaides has recommended that Miss Allwood terminates some of the babies to give the others more chance but she has decided to try to keep all eight.

Miss Allwood was referred to him by her consultant in Birmingham, Dr Manjit O'Brien. Solihull declined to approve the referral because it has contracts with hospi-

Letters, page 19

NEWS IN BRIEF

Clergyman cost Church £50,000

The Church of England has spent £50,000 helping those abused by Chris Brain, the disgraced clergyman who ran Sheffield's Nine O'Clock Service. A year since the scandal broke, ten women are still being counselled.

Priest attacked

A Roman Catholic priest was attacked by a patient during a service at Broadmoor Hospital. Father Martin Laker needed stitches to a head wound after being assaulted at the top-security hospital in Crowthorne, Berkshire.

Holiday death

A Briton has died in a water bike accident while on holiday in Florida. William Alexander McAuley, 26, a soldier stationed at Catterick, North Yorkshire, hit his head while trying to jump the wake of a passing boat.

Police raid party

An illegal drinking den at a disused country house in Buckinghamshire was raided by police early yesterday. There were 11 arrests for drugs offences when more than 50 officers arrived at 500 people held a party.

Crushed boy dies

A boy aged 8 was crushed to death when an army lorry slipped down a bank at a balloon festival in Northampton. The driver lost control as he was leaving a Territorial Army display. Six other people were injured.

Brahms and Liszt

A pub which promises to ban musak and pop music has opened in Clifton, Bristol. The Composers' Bar holds weekly concerts of classical music, provides it on tape at other times and is decorated with the busts of composers.

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For the life you don't yet know

Chefs feel heat of latest research on beefburgers

The recent warm weather has brought back smiles to the faces of farmers who are completing their harvests. Too busy to read the papers, many may well have missed an item which in pre-BSE days would have caused concern.

Now that farmers have been hardened by years of adverse publicity, the latest research from America into beefburgers barely warrants a mention in the bar of their local. Doctors from the Ohio College of Medicine report in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* that they have uncovered a tenuous link between eating beefburgers and developing non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. The journal is a well-regarded American publication and research published in it is taken seriously by doctors throughout the world.

Although there is an epidemic of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in the western world, a cause has not been found and about 4,000 cases are diagnosed annually in the United Kingdom. Some of the cases being treated are known to follow damage to the immune system, whether as a result of disease, as occurs in those infected with HIV, or following essential treatment for other conditions: for example, when immunosuppressant drugs are given for the treatment of other malignant disease, after transplant surgery or in some types of connective tissue disease, such as SLE (systemic lupus erythematosus).

An association has also been noticed between non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and melanoma, the malignant moles which sometime arise as a result of excessive exposure to sun. It is possible that the increase in numbers of both of these separate malignancies is a sequel to the sun-worshipping that became firmly established when foreign travel became easier after the Second World War. A few cases of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma are known to be a late result of infection with a virus.

The good news for farmers is that in the Ohio research, based on 34,000 local women who had their diet analysed and compared with the incidence of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, the connection with beefburgers seemed to be entirely with the method of cooking and not with the nature of the meat.

This time it may be the restaurateurs who have to alter their habits, not the farmers. All forms of meat other than beefburgers were exonerated and any association with beef was present only when it was cooked in this way. It seems that the cancer-forming power of the beefburger is apparent only when the meat is overcooked or burnt.

A lymphoma is the form of cancer which attacks the cells of the lymph glands and spleen. Hodgkin's disease is the best-known lymphoma and in these cases pathologists find a particular type of abnormal cell, the Reed Sternberg. When they do it is an encouraging finding, for with modern treatment most cases of Hodgkin's disease can be cured.

In non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, in which Reed Sternberg cells are absent, the lymphoma is classified according to the type of lymphatic cell which has been overtaken by the malignant process (and therefore named B or T-cell lymphoma), by the malignancy the cells are displaying and by the way in which they are spreading.

The diagnosis of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma is usually made when the patient discovers a painless, enlarged rubbery lymph gland. In many cases the gland is first found in the neck or groin. About a third of the patients at the time of discovery are seriously anaemic, which worsens later as the malignant tissue spreads, often to the stomach and intestines.

As a terminal event, many people with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma develop a leukaemic-type blood picture. Whereas often the disease initially develops slowly and no treatment is required in the early stages, later on radiotherapy and chemotherapy are used. Although this does not effect a cure, life is often prolonged for many years.

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

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Rare Renaissance bronzes may be diverted from Fitzwilliam Museum to Swiss taxman

Family challenges art bequest to Cambridge

By DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge faces legal action over a multimillion-pound bequest of Renaissance bronzes whose ownership is being contested.

The family of the late Kathleen Sherek, who lived in Geneva and who was left the collection by her brother, disputes whether she promised it to Cambridge long before her death. The Swiss are also considering whether the collection might need to be passed to Geneva in lieu of inheritance tax.

Scholars describe it as one of the world's outstanding private collections of Renaissance bronzes. It was long assumed that the bequest was going to Cambridge.

A statuette by Antico (circa 1460-1528), court sculptor to the Gonzagas in Mantua, is among the most prized works in the two dozen bronzes. Antico, who was born Pier Jacopo Alari Bonacolsi, and



Kathleen Sherek

who was influenced by Mantegna and Donatello, derived his nickname from restoring antique marbles, though he also created bronze statues in an antique style. Such is the rarity of this master on the open market that Bonhams sold Antico's *Hercules* for a record £3.08 million last May. The collection, known as the Sherek Bequest, was put to-

gether in the 1930s by Colonel Thomas Boscawen, a younger son of the seventh Viscount Falmouth. Unable to afford to live in England, he worked as a farmer in Africa, owning extensive plantations.

One source said: "The collection didn't cost a fortune. The market was so low then that anyone clever with only a little bit of money could do wonderful things. In the 1930s, museums were desperately poor and the financial crises worse than now." The colonel is remembered as "very cultivated and very retiring, a product of another age".

He collected bronzes because they were among the few hardy works of art that could withstand the African weather. At Boscawen's death in 1958, the collection was left to his sister, the wife of Henry Sherek, a theatre producer and impresario. When he died in 1967, Kathleen Sherek left London to live in Switzerland.

She freely let scholars see the collection and lent items to

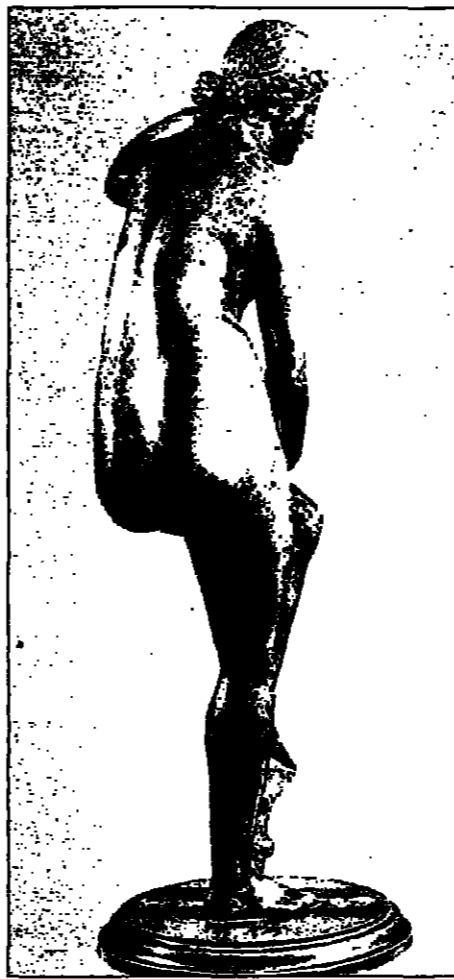
exhibitions. It is unclear whether the bequest was mentioned in her will.

"It was always understood that the collection was destined for the Fitzwilliam," said one observer. It is believed that Mrs Sherek felt that her brother would have wanted the collection to go to Cambridge, where he had been a student.

At the end of last year, Geneva introduced an "acceptance in lieu" system, partly modelled on the British version, in which inheritance tax can be paid with works of art. A lawyer said: "This is a major change in Geneva, affecting its role as a haven for collectors."

It appears that the family is contesting the bequest because of the need to pay taxes. Asked if the works were likely to be subject to inheritance tax, Pietro Sansonetti, director of tax affairs at the Geneva tax authority, said: "The question is still open. It is an issue that is still pending."

The Fitzwilliam was unable to comment.



Works by Antico are among the most highly coveted by collectors of bronzes

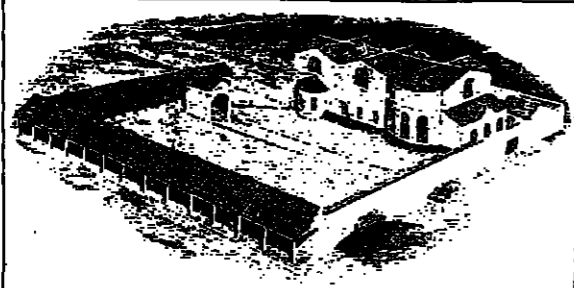
Scotland to London rail fare cut to £19

A RAIL company is cutting the fare from Scotland to London to just £19 to challenge cheap air tickets. The single fare is available on all East Coast services from Glasgow Central, Motherwell and Edinburgh to King's Cross as long as tickets are booked at least seven days before travelling.

The price cut is a bid by Sea Containers, which was awarded the East Coast franchise four months ago, to undercut discounted air fares as well as bus services. It comes days after Ryanair UK reduced its return Glasgow to London fare to £49 and rival airline EasyJet said it would double its flights to the capital.

Christopher Garnett, chief executive of East Coast, said he was confident of winning a large share of the airline market: "The £19 fare is part of a £4 million marketing campaign designed to promote the advantages of taking the train into the heart of London."

East Coast runs 20 trains a day from Scotland. The fastest journey from Edinburgh to London takes 4 hours and 10 minutes.



Artist's impression of Caerleon bath house

Welsh fortress where troops faced tribes

In the last of our series on Roman Britain, John Young explores the fringes of the empire, where an invader's fort faced a native capital



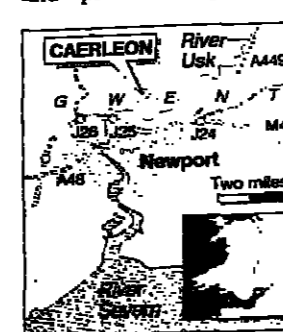
ated with popular legends of King Arthur and the Round Table.

Near by is the Legionary Museum, founded in 1880 by industrialists who formed the Caerleon Antiquarian Association. The present building was completed in 1986 and incorporates its predecessor's colonnade. It attracts 50,000 visitors a year, about half of them school groups.

It houses an outstanding collection of sculpture, pottery, tombstones and burial urns, the inscriptions enhanced with a red dye which, though it appears curious at first, greatly increases their legibility. There are also tiles, domestic utensils, craftsmen's implements, coins and — most fascinating of all — a collection of 88 exquisitely engraved gemstones found in the baths in 1979.

Caerleon is a must for anyone seriously interested in Roman Britain. For good measure, about ten miles up the road to the east lies Caerwent, formerly Venta Silurum, the capital of the Silures tribe. It is now a small, peaceful village, happily bypassed by the main road.

The most outstanding remains are those of the great defensive walls, which form a rectangle of just over a mile in perimeter and provide a pleasant



walk along the top. Not far away is a small excavated section of the great forum-basilica and the Romano-Celtic temple: the latter was not built until 330 AD, which suggests that it could have been an early centre of Christian worship. In the porch of the Church of St Stephen and St Tathan is a stone with an inscription dedicated to Tiberius Claudius Paulinus, commander of the Second Augustan Legion and later Governor of Britannia Inferior.

Letters, page 19

Who'd have thought it? 'Pride and Prejudice', Jane Austen's classic tale of romance and English manners, being eagerly watched in the home of popcorn and pretzels.

Over eleven million Americans followed the six part adaptation. Add that to the audiences of seventeen other countries around the world and it's easy to see why it has become one of the BBC's great success stories of 1996.

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Investors shaken by South African murder

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN CAPE TOWN

AMID increasing concern about South Africa's crime problems, fuelled by the recent upsurge of vigilante violence, the murder of a German executive has shaken the country's nervous foreign business community and injected a sense of urgency into the Government's anti-crime strategies.

Erich Ellmer, 48, financial manager of the South African branch of AEG, was shot dead outside his home in Johannesburg in a botched hijacking by gunmen who fled empty-handed. The murder dominated news at the weekend, drawing condemnation from politicians, concern from business leaders and anger from the public.

"The bastards shot him in the back," said his wife Jurta, an employee of ARD TV, the German television network, who planned to leave the country with her two young children after 12 years. Frau Ellmer, who had previously considered leaving South Africa because of the crime, said: "There is so much crime and violence and no law in this

country. The police just cannot handle it."

The words might have come from one of countless South Africans who daily telephone local radio shows across the country to voice their anger over crime. For whites in particular Herr Ellmer's murder was spine-chilling. Like many other Johannesburg residents, the family lived in a

suburb protected by high walls, razor wire, dogs, alarms and security doors. For increasing numbers of South Africans the answer appears to lie in vigilantism. Community anger has led residents of white suburbs to form armed patrol groups and the mushrooming of township vigilantes.

There is so much crime and violence and no law in this country. The police just cannot handle it

house protected by high walls, razor wire, dogs, alarms and security doors.

White men with blacked-out faces were seen last week directing a gang cavalcade as it drove towards a police station shortly before a shootout between anti-gang

activists, gangsters and police officers in the Cape Flats. The Government complains that the international media is obsessed with violence and says it is getting on top of the problem. But the news that Dullah Omar, the Justice Minister, has moved out of his home in the Cape Flats amid concerns for his safety, is hardly a vote of confidence.

Nearly two million crimes were reported last year, with only half solved, including 36,585 rapes, 18,983 murders and 66,838 armed robberies. Herr Ellmer's murder has prompted BMW to reconsider its new billion-rand investment announced earlier this year. Last week the tourism board said that the number of visitors rose by 0.2 per cent in the first five months of this year, compared with a 30 per cent for the same period last year.

The emergence of a Muslim vigilante group, People's Ac-

tion Against Gangsterism and Drugs in Cape Town has struck a chord with crime-weary South Africans. Every day brings news of new vigilante action. Faced with well armed and well drilled vigilantes, the gangs are marching in protest, troops and extra police have been sent to the Cape Flats and the issue tops the political agenda.

At the weekend a South African newspaper reported that neo-Nazis from the Afrikaaner Resistance Movement had been hired by Cape Town ganglords as protection from anti-drug militants.

□ **Durban:** Gunmen shot and burnt to death five people, including two children, aged three and seven, in KwaZulu-Natal province at the weekend, the police said. (Reuters)



South Korean students demanding unification with the North defy police from behind barricades at Seoul's Yonsei University last night. About 1,000 were trapped inside a police cordon after five days of violence (Nick Long writes). Most of the demonstrators were in the science block, threatening to set off explosive chemicals if

Korean students at bay

the building was stormed. A sign hanging from the roof read: "We want to go home". But the students refused to surrender without a guarantee of immunity. The Government has promised to punish the group and to root out Hanchongryon, the

Federation of Student Councils, which sponsored the demonstration.

Up to 12,000 police have been deployed in and around the university. Police who tried to break through the barricades outside the building yesterday

were beaten back by several hundred students hurling rocks and welding metal pipes. During the past week more than 1,000 students and police were reported injured and about 1,700 students were detained. Most were released. The students are also demanding the withdrawal of about 37,000 US troops from Korea.

Colony in despair at 'Chinese takeaway'

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN HONG KONG

IN THE window of a souvenir shop at the terminal of Star Ferry, linking Hong Kong island with Kowloon, a T-shirt for sale depicts China grasping Hong Kong between chopsticks, and the words read: "30 June, 1997 - the Greatest Chinese Take-Away".

The caricature seems to sum up the mood of resignation among Hong Kong Chinese in this city state, population 6.3 million, with less than 11 months to go before China takes over sovereignty of the colony. "There's not much anyone can do about it," says one Hong Kong businessman. "A lot of people feel now they would just as soon get it over with."

Visitors returning to Hong Kong after an absence of a year or two will find new physical evidence, big and small, of its irreversible fate. There are the Bank of China banknotes featuring the bauhinia flower, an orchid adopted as the symbol of the future Special Administrative Region (SAR). On a bigger scale, there is the Chinese Foreign Ministry building going up at the corner of MacDonnell Road and Kennedy Road on Hong Kong. It is being paid for by Li Ka-shing, the pro-Peking tycoon who is one of the world's richest men.

The building is likely to be the nerve centre of China's authority, replacing the Xinhua news agency that has represented Peking's interests until now. The agency's offices have often been the focal point of pro-democracy protests.

Just a few hundred yards away, across the lush Hong Kong park, an imposing eight-story building to house the future British Consulate-General is nearing completion.

Yet, the British are annoyed — with themselves. Due to an astonishing lack of foresight, the authorities failed to build a taller structure to allow several floors to be used as residential flats for future consulate staff. "Now they will be thrown on the market like everyone else and forced to pay astronomical prices," said a British lawyer here.

"It's a fine building but the feng shui may not be propitious," said an engineer on the project, pointing at the Bank of China, a sharp side of which leans like a knife over the future consulate. Feng shui (wind and water) is an important oriental art applied to enhancing and harmonising surroundings of homes, buildings, and even rooms.

10,000 see Mugabe wed

By JAN RAATHI

THE controversial ten-year love affair between President Mugabe of Zimbabwe, 72, and his former secretary, Grace Marufu, 31, became respectable on Saturday when the two were married in a lavish ceremony at Kutama Mission, about 50 miles west of Harare.

The Pope wished the couple "an abundance of divine grace and joy" in a message read out to the 10,000 guests crowded in and around St Xavier's church. "The Holy

WORLD SUMMARY

Women of India fight back

Delhi: A housewives' Bill has been introduced in the Indian parliament, calling for paid housework and a legally enforceable day off for women in the home. Women would be able to choose which day they want off and if the family demurs, the housewife could summon the police. (Christopher Thomas writes).

The Housewives (Compulsory Weekly Holiday From Domestic Chores) Bill says that it shall be the duty of family members to establish which day of the week the housewife wants free. The Bill may not have a hope of becoming law, but its message is clear: Indian wives are fighting back.

Lebanon voting marred by death

Beirut: One man was killed after a brawl at a polling station and rival candidates swapped charges of bribery, gangsterism and intimidation as Lebanon's parliamentary elections started in Mount Lebanon, the Christian heartland, yesterday. Police and independent observers reported fist fighting or gunfire as the region voted in the first of five rounds of polling to be held in different parts of the country on consecutive Sundays. (Reuters)

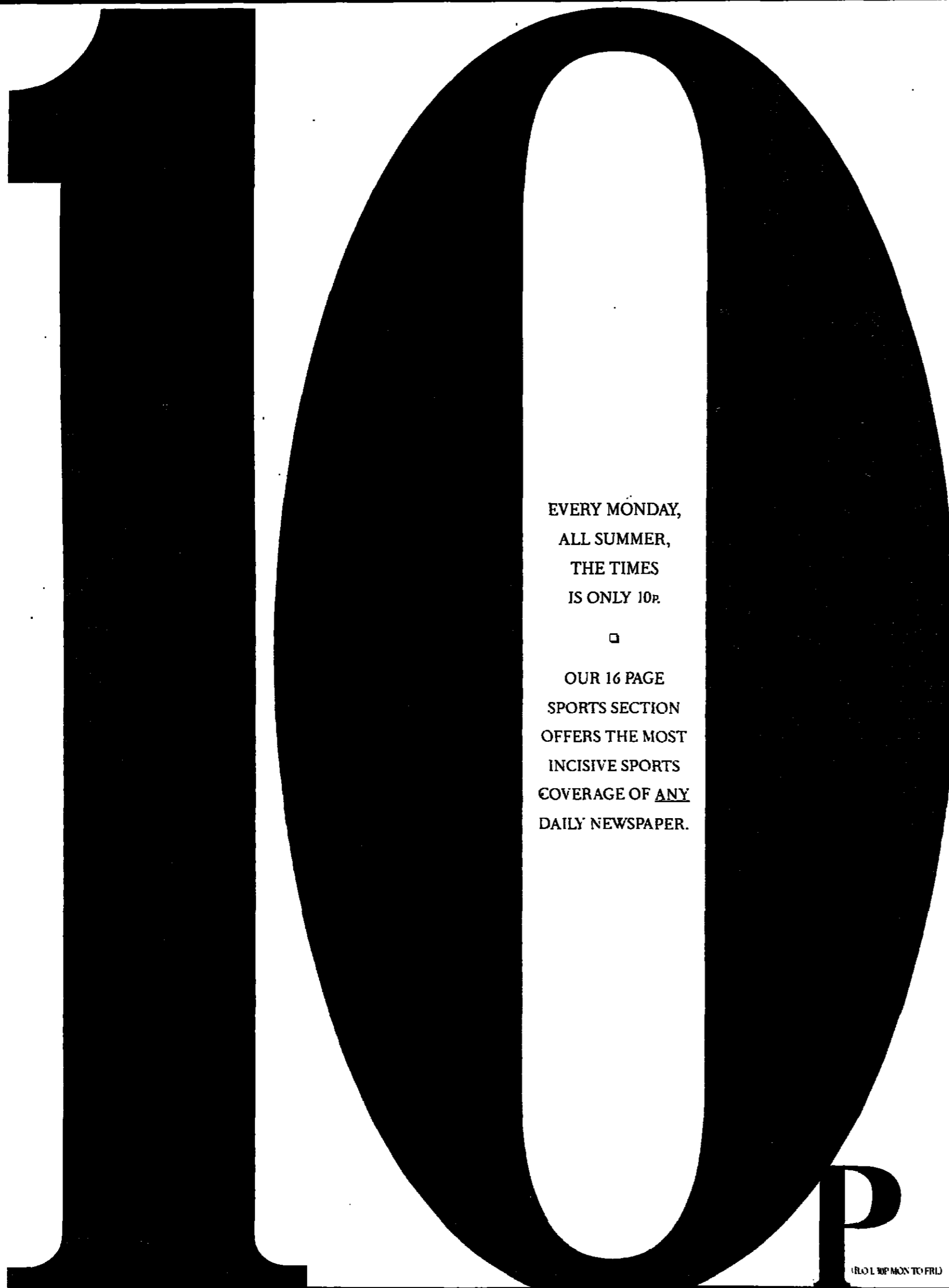
'Last chance' for peace in Liberia

Abuja: A new peace plan to end the Liberian civil war has been agreed by West African leaders with the country's warlords. The Nigerian Government said: "This is indeed the last chance for peace for Liberians." Under a timetable, elections will be held next May. Ruth Perry, a former Liberian senator, will now take over from Dr. Wilton Sankawulo as new chairman of the council of state. (Reuters)

Tajikistan truce in jeopardy

Tajikistan's Islamic opposition leaders, speaking from Tehran, claimed their forces had taken control of the strategic Tajik town of Tavildara in fierce fighting. The Tajik Defence Ministry said in a statement that fighting was continuing, apparently leaving last month's United Nations-sponsored ceasefire in tatters. (Reuters)

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Town split over Orange order

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN ORANGE, PROVENCE

Hero of France's far Right is accused of bullying, nepotism and censorship

ORANGE, the scene of so many past religious conflicts and the city which gave the Orangemen of Northern Ireland their name, is again embroiled in an ideological battle, this time between the right-wing National Front and its opponents.

After little more than a year in office, Jacques Bompard, the National Front Mayor of Orange, has become one of the most feared and detested men in France, and a hero to the extreme Right second only to Jean-Marie Le Pen, the National Front leader.

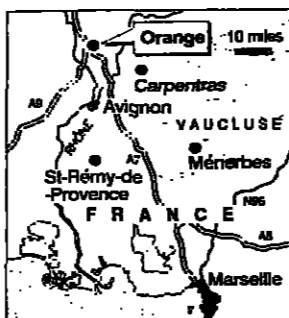
M Bompard's political "crusade" in Orange has attracted the backing of ultra-traditionalist Roman Catholics, and the determined opposition of the central Government. The mayor's enemies say his administration is guilty of bullying, nepotism and cultural censorship. Two municipal employees have committed suicide since his election and critics say M Bompard's autocratic methods have brought an atmosphere of distrust to this idyllic Provençal city of 30,000 people.

The political struggle came to a head this month when M Bompard banned his oppo-

nents from distributing anti-National Front leaflets in the streets. The move came after accusations that the National Front had removed left-wing books from municipal libraries and introduced works more to its political tastes.

An intense and dapper man with a taste for bombastic rhetoric, M Bompard insists he is the victim of a media lynch-mob and gleefully calls himself the "most slandered mayor in France". But when M Bompard took office in June last year, having won 37.5 per cent of the vote, he told municipal workers: "You collaborated with the Socialists. Now you'll collaborate with me - and I use the term intentionally."

M Bompard's first clash with the national Government came when the organisers of the Chorégies music festival in Orange refused to have him as chairman of its committee. M Bompard angrily declared he would withdraw municipal funding and Philippe Douste-Blazy, the Culture Minister, stepped in to say that the



Government would provide the necessary grant.

M Bompard "has an isolationist concept of culture and an authoritarian vision of power," M Douste-Blazy said. One municipal employee was reportedly summoned by the mayor after she had been overheard making disparaging remarks at a dinner with friends in a local restaurant. Another was reprimanded for giving a lift to a known National Front opponent.

In June Pierre Nouveau, a city employee who had been transferred to the lowly parking department, committed

suicide in his office. Before he shot himself, M Nouveau wrote a note blaming M Bompard and two of his aides. M Bompard has suggested that M Nouveau, like another employee who suffered severe injuries after attempting to burn herself to death in her car, was guilty of corruption.

For the various associations that have sprung up to defy the National Front mayor, the dispute over the ordering of library books and the banning of leaflets on the streets of Orange was the final proof that M Bompard was attempting full-scale censorship or, in the words of M Le Pen, to "govern minds by culture".

According to a government report for the Culture Ministry, the National Front had consistently avoided buying books that covered such subjects as racism and rap music. Literature reflecting "high morals" were favoured, but the booklist drawn up by the city reportedly included works by anti-Semites, Fascists and Nazi collaborators.

Last week a tribunal in

Marseille ruled that M Bompard's ban on the distribution of leaflets was a flagrant assault on freedom of expression, but the response of the mayor and his allies was typically nonchalant. The book-ordering policy was an attempt to broaden the city's reading material to include all shades of opinion, they claimed, while the leaflets ban was intended to prevent litter in the streets.

For the ruling Gaullist party, facing legislative elections in 1998, M Bompard's regime represents more than an isolated political oddity. National Front mayors were also elected in Toulon and Marignane, while M Le Pen attained a record 15 per cent in the presidential elections. With unemployment growing and resentment over immigration increasing, observers say that the National Front may be set for more gains.

Orange's growing notoriety as the showcase for the extreme Right in power has left many inhabitants tense and fractious. At the municipal library, the rule of silence is total, since the mayor ordered staff not to speak to journalists and the head librarian resigned.

Brave new world, page 14



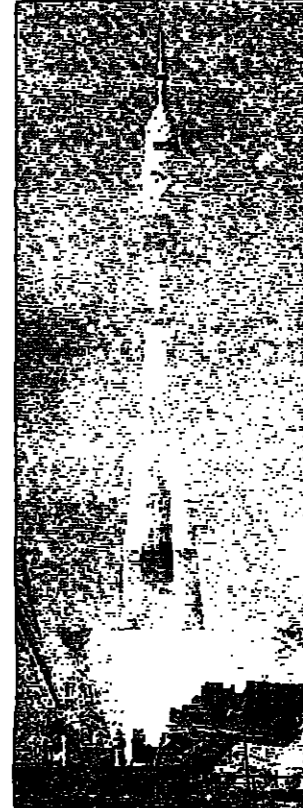
Claudie André-Deshays says farewell before blasting off from Baikonur, below

French first as woman joins Mir

THE first Frenchwoman in space, Claudie André-Deshays, headed towards the Mir space station yesterday, earning herself a place in history (Ben Macintyre writes).

Mme André-Deshays, 39, a neuroscientist, will carry out a 16-day mission to study the effects of weightlessness on human beings in the orbiting station, which has been manned permanently since 1986.

The rocket carrying the French woman and two Russian cosmonauts, Valery Korzun and Aleksandr Kalery, took off on Saturday from Baikonur, in Kazakhstan. The spaceship is scheduled to dock with Mir today, when the new arrivals will join the two Russians and an American woman on board.



Chiracs under strain

BY BEN MACINTYRE

IN AN unprecedented admission of marital strain, Bernadette Chirac, the wife of President Chirac of France, has described her husband as a preoccupied, critical man with whom she no longer shares her thoughts.

In an interview with Europe 1 radio, to be broadcast today, Mme Chirac said that her husband demands absolute si-

lence when watching football on television, does not solicit her views on matters of import and seldom compliments her. "The President is not an expert in conjugal praise. When everything is going well, he says nothing. When certain things are not right, he does not hesitate to point them out," she said.

The interview was the first time Mme Chirac has discussed her marriage in public.

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Are we sentenced to be forever fatties?

Anjana Ahuja on the research breakthroughs which promise a cure for the plague of obesity

Our perspective on fatness has changed down the ages. In the distant past, the ability to store fat was an evolutionary advantage allowing human beings to survive times of famine. Large women were celebrated as models of fertility and health, and immortalised by painters such as Rubens.

Now society regards spare flesh as taboo, exhorting us to rid ourselves of ample hips and rounded bellies at any cost. The reasons? The fact that we now live longer has allowed the link between obesity and illnesses such as heart disease, diabetes and high blood pressure to emerge. And, advertisers tell us, thin equals glamorous. The only problem is that a steady flow of scientific results suggests that we may have little control over how portly we become.

The latest peg in this argument came last week with the publication of a paper in *Nature*, highlighting the discovery of yet another gene influencing obesity. By knocking out a gene called RII-beta, G. Stanley McKnight and colleagues at the University of Washington School of Medicine in Seattle were able to create mice which remained slim even when fed fatty diets.

A flood of similar findings during the past three years has revolutionised attitudes to obesity. "Obesity is now becoming a respectable illness, which is a major swing in medical thinking," says Professor Philip James, who heads the Rowett Research Institute in Aberdeen, and the World Health Organisation's International

Taskforce on Obesity. Within the next six weeks, Professor James and fellow experts will report to the National Health Service in Scotland on how anti-obesity drugs should be managed.

He says: "Everyone used to view obesity as a personal problem which could be overcome with willpower, and this approach had very puritanical overtones. Now we are realising that those views are hopelessly misplaced. Telling people to just eat less is bonkers."

Obesity, or having too much body fat, is a medical condition which is reaching epidemic proportions in the developed world. A person is defined as obese if he weighs at least 20 per cent more than the maximum desirable weight for his height. The condition tends to run in families, with the children of obese parents ten times more likely than others to end up with the same condition. Studies of twins raised apart have shown that weight depends very much — up to 80 per cent — on genes. So it was unsurprising when, three years ago, hard evidence of a genetic link began to emerge.

Using rats and mice, five genes which influence weight gain have been identified. These have been christened *Agouti Yellow*, *Fat*, *Tubby*, *Diabetes (or db)* and *Obese (or ob)*. RII-beta now joins this list.

Of these, *Obese* was regarded as the most spectacular finding. Scientists at Rockefeller University in New York found that *Obese* encoded the instructions to produce leptin, a hormone produced by fat cells. A faulty *Obese* gene resulted in rats ballooning to three times



Are we really what we eat? Junk food and an inactive life may play a part in obesity, but increasingly scientists believe that our weight may be controlled by genes

their normal size, suggesting that leptin could be the chemical that persuades us we are no longer hungry. Injecting it seemed to cure extreme obesity, and when this work was made public last summer, it was seen as a potentially lucrative milestone. Trials of leptin injections on humans are already under way.

The genetics of obesity have been seized on by respected experts such as Dr Rudolph Leibel, from the Rockefeller University Hospital, who believes we have a predestined "set weight" upon which exercise and dieting have little impact. As shown by a study Dr Leibel conducted last year, our bodies will put up a substantial fight against attempts to change them.

"Lowering body weight experimentally led to the metabolism slowing down, and this was true for all sizes of subject," Dr Leibel says. "That's pretty strong evidence that

our bodies like to maintain or defend a certain amount of body fat." Chemical feedback loops ensure that as food intake varies our hunger pangs and metabolism adjust accordingly. He says: "The discovery of these genes shows where the loops might be."

"We should encourage people to slim only if they have weight-related health problems, and they should lose enough weight for the problem to go away."

Critics of the "set-weight" argument say that, if we are destined to always weigh 10st, then our intake of fat should make little difference, a proposal not borne out by study. They argue that environment has a large part to play, and explains why obesity is rising across the

'Telling people to just eat less is simply bonkers'

world. Dr Leibel does not dispute that environment matters: "If you took a bunch of obese people and put them in an environment without food, then obviously you would have no obese people," he says.

Professor James puts a slightly different spin on the genes-versus-environment debate: "There are two factors which mean that obesity is rising. One is physical inactivity and the other is a high-fat diet. However, some people are naturally more resistant to obesity than others. I would say that our genes contribute to how susceptible we are to our environment, and this lies somewhere between 25 and 75 per cent."

The link between tubby rats and corpulent humans has not been easy. However, if the secret of slenderness is hidden away in our biology, can we find a drug to unlock it? With unimaginable riches awaiting the company which can deliver in a pill the like, fat-free figures most of us crave, scientists in the field are working flat out. *Scientific American* lists 12 commercial studies into anti-obesity drugs. These trials variously target the brain (to reduce the signals we interpret as hunger pangs), the digestive tract (to lower the proportion of food digested, or to block appetite) and fat levels (to speed up fat-burning).

Dexfenfluramine, which increases levels of the neurotransmitter serotonin to quell appetite, has already won approval from the US Food and Drug Administration, and is also available in Britain. Professor James is heading a trial

at the Rowett Research Institute into Sibutramine, which fights hunger by boosting the levels of serotonin and noradrenaline in the brain. Results will be out at the end of next year.

Such drug treatments and even surgery, coupled with dietary advice and an active lifestyle, are the only way we will be able to tackle the snowballing problem of obesity, according to Professor James.

"This is the most exciting time for many years. We are striding ahead scientifically and also beginning to overcome the understandable prejudice of the past 30 years against anti-obesity drugs. And only two weeks ago the Government announced it would review its stance on drugs."

He adds: "Obesity is a phenomenally debilitating condition, and we have an epidemic on our hands. It's ridiculous that we have only just started dealing with it."

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New theory on nature's big sleep □ Mapping the meteor craters

SCIENTISTS used to think that they understood hibernation pretty well. Advanced mammal species had developed the knack of sleeping through the northern winter in order to escape the cold and lack of food. To survive, they turned down their metabolism to tick-over, and built up large stocks of brown fat which were used to kick-start things back into action in the spring.

The first signs that this was only part of the story came at the end of the 1980s, when Australian scientists were finally able to prove that the echidna — or spiny anteater — hibernates in winter. The echidna is not a highly evolved mammal but rather a primitive one, sharing with the duck-billed platypus the un-mammalian habit of laying eggs.

There had long been dispute over whether the echidna hibernated, some asserting that it didn't. Sightings of the animals in late winter and early spring above the snow line in a New South Wales national park suggested that they must be hibernators, since they could have got there only by crossing several miles of snow, or more likely emerging briefly from a burrow.

The issue was finally settled by Gordon Grigg, of the University of Queensland,

Wake up to hibernation

and colleagues, who put radio transmitters in the peritoneal cavities of three male and two female echidnas. The transmitters operated through the winter, providing a steady flow of data about the animals' temperature. The team found that it fell to as low as 3C, from its usual level of about 31C to 33C — clear evidence the animals were hibernating. From time to time, the temperature shot up to normal, as the animals woke for a day or two — also the classic pattern of hibernation.

This technology has revolutionised hibernation research, as a conference held in Tasmania earlier this summer showed. The number of species known to hibernate is being constantly revised upwards. One of the most curi-



SCIENCE BRIEFING
Nigel Hawkes

ous is the mouse lemur from Madagascar, not a place known for its bitter winters. This animal, German researchers from the University of Marburg reported, actually seems to hibernate during the day in the dry season. It is a night feeder and its temperature remains a steady 35C or so throughout the night, falling abruptly in the early morning to about 20C, reaching a minimum at 8am and then slowly rising again. This is not so much hibernation as torpor, but the effects are similar.

Other researchers have found marsupials that can hibernate and, like the echidna, can sit themselves into action again when they wake up without the benefit of brown fat. So all the classic features of hibernation appear to have been updated, as Doctor Andrew Cossins, of Liverpool University, and Doctor Brian Barnes, of the University of Alaska, remark in a report of the Tasmania conference in the current issue of *Nature*. Far from being a habit unique to advanced mammals in the winter, it is shared by all sorts of creatures in both hemispheres. Even the name is now wrong, since it derives from the Latin for winter quarters.

One of the greatest puzzles is the process of waking up in the spring. Animals that lack brown fat must have some other mechanism for generating heat. One possibility is that they shiver themselves back to life. Some small marsupial hibernators certainly are vigorous shivers, though the echidna does not appear to use this method.

Two major problems remain unsolved, say Cossins and Barnes. The first is why hibernating animals of all types bother to wake up periodically during hibernation — answering a call of nature is the obvious explanation that occurs, and it may even turn out to be the true one — and the other is how hibernators manage to survive body temperatures so low that they would surely kill any non-hibernator.

Where life on Mars was born

A PLANETARY scientist at the University of Central Florida believes she has located the most likely source on Mars of the meteorite recently identified as showing hints of primitive life. Dr Nadine Barlow started from a catalogue of 42,283 Martian craters.

The rock of which the meteorite is made is 4.5 billion years old, meaning it must have come from the most ancient terrain on Mars. But it was ejected from the planet only about 16 million years ago, which means that the crater from which it came should still show very young features. Only large impacts, producing craters of 100

kilometres diameter or more, or smaller low-angle impacts are capable of ejecting material to form meteorites.

Using these criteria to narrow the search, Dr Barlow came up with 23 possibilities. She then used images taken by the Viking spacecraft to eliminate all those that appeared more than 16 million years old. "That may sound like a long time but for geological processes it is very short, particularly for a planet which has experienced little geological activity for the past billion years," she says.

The two craters that emerged were both produced by a glancing blow, and are both in the heavily cratered southern highlands — one in the Sinus Sabaeus region and the other east of an area called Hesperia Planitia. Future landing missions by the US space agency NASA may now be targeted at these places.

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TOP DAY IN THE TIMES GREAT SUMMER OF SPORT

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The trip to Hong Kong and a flight into controversy
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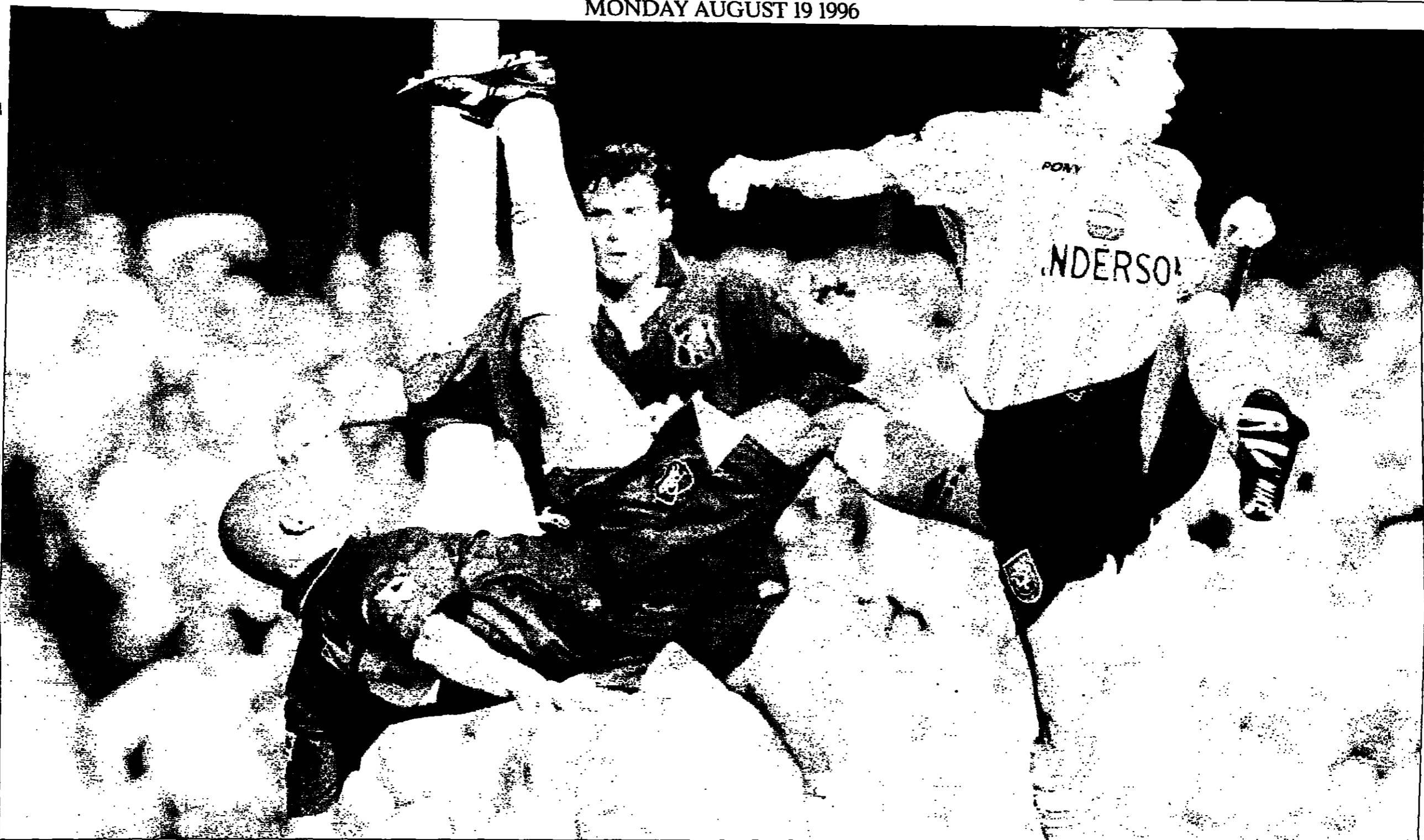
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TIMES SPORT

MONDAY AUGUST 19 1996



Vialli launches himself into a spectacular overhead kick at The Dell yesterday. His effort hit the Southampton post to deny him a goal on his first appearance for Chelsea. Photograph: Laurence Griffiths

Southampton stand firm under Vialli's fire to share honours

Beasant draws Chelsea's sting

Southampton 0
Chelsea 0

By ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

AFTER it rained goals in the heatwave of Saturday, the temperature soared into the high 90s down at The Dell yesterday and somehow, from two teams so very disparate in earning power and potential, we had a drought.

The closest Gianluca Vialli came in his first appearance in the FA Carling Premiership to replicating Saturday's hat-trick by the ravenous Ravanelli up at Middlesbrough was to hit the base of a post with a wonderfully-controlled and inventive overhead kick and to demand two athletic saves from Dave Beasant.

In fact Chelsea, their league of nations such that only Wise and Myers were English in yesterday's team, threatened to overwhelm Southampton on their home ground almost as easily as sweat dripping off the brow.

The Southampton team are introducing Graeme Souness, on his return from Turkey, to a new experience: the art, or rather the artisan, craft of sheer muck and nettles survival from day one of their 19 consecutive seasons in top grade football.

They must, and Souness acknowledges it, hold on to Le Tissier, must find players to prompt and inspire him, and must not make it so obvious that he is their lone hope. Chelsea could afford to isolate

him by surrounding him with a posse of blue shirts — or at least they did after the first minute when Roberto Di Matteo who, at £4.9 million, cost almost twice the spending budget of Souness, mis-hit a back pass. Le Tissier read his mind, turned and, looking up into the sun, chipped the ball delicately over the right shoulder of Kharine, dropping it onto the crossbar.

That was to be the closest to a goal by far for Southampton or Chelsea, who passed the ball more fluidly and contrived 15 shots, only five of them on target and none, bar Vialli's effort against the post, able to beat Beasant.

"Right now what I have is a team of very honest players," said Souness. "I have come with the intention of getting together a side to go forward, to create chances, to excite the crowd. But today I could ask no more than the effort I got.

Manew Le Tissier found it very difficult because of our system (which Southampton changed to 3-5-2 at half time). With only Shipperley up front, there were not a lot of options for him. But his attitude has been great in training, and only he could have created that chance out of nothing right at the start of the game."

Souness concluded that his team, until he can locate and persuade recruits, will have to grind out results and attempt to stay in a division of more gifted and affluent teams. Chelsea certainly being one.

And though Glenn Hoddle, here at the first opportunity to watch Le Tissier, departed early, the new England coach's commitment to a player not unlike himself in terms of flair, will not, surely, evaporate in the heat of one arid afternoon.

What Hoddle had to admire, all of us, was the languid

elegance of Franck Leboeuf. He, a Frenchman tall, lean and prematurely balding, was the *libero* personified. He reads the game several paces ahead of opponents, he intercepts, he tries to create with passes up to 50 yards, and in one moment with an attempt from the halfway line to emulate Beckham, Leboeuf's shot from the semi-circle drifted wide of the net, wide of the huge grin on the face of Beasant.

But, with Di Matteo struggling to last the pace, apparently not having trained for 10 days because of a back injury, all in Chelsea blue was not convincing. "Roberto and Gianluca need rhythm," Ruud Gullit, the manager, who himself is recuperating after knee surgery, said. "You can see that these players are not yet fit, and if you look at my face you will see that I was disappointed with the result. We

controlled the game, we made all of the chances except one, but you have to win such games. We lost two points, and I have demanded of my players that they must be better."

Di Matteo, nonetheless, combined work rate with a presence on the ball that promises much. He could find Hughes or Vialli at a stroke, and if he wilted, then didn't we all? One who refused to, despite the fact that he has yet to wear a Chelsea shirt in the peak of condition following an early summer injury to an abductor muscle, was Vialli.

In the 11th minute, he had been subjected to a gruesome foul — Jason Dodd coming right through on his calf from behind. This has to be the definition of the premeditated foul from behind that Fifa wants outlawed. Referee Martin Bodenham's yellow card was insufficient punishment.

Insufficient, too, was the control of Wise when, early on, after Hughes and Burley had opened up the defence, he ran the ball too far off his shin, and was denied by the sprawling Beasant. That was how such a goalkeeper could compensate for a defence, at the heart of which was Richard Dryden, elevated from Bristol City at the age of 27, to face world class players.

Souness drooled at some of Vialli's work. Between the 55th minute and the 70th this big man, with huge, muscular thighs, a shaven head, and the desire to match his former running mate Ravanelli, burst goalwards.

Quite the most electric moment came when Myers skipped past Neilson, Myers' cross was also exquisite, and then Vialli launched himself off the ground, connected with the ball... but found the base of the post.

Thus, Chelsea's first match in the new adventure under Gullit, ended 0-0. Souness, for one, went home envious: "This is the first time I had seen Gianluca for some years," he said. "You could see that he will be an exceptional player here. You could see as the game went on him becoming more and more fox-like."

And so to Stamford Bridge on Wednesday where it will be Vialli in the blue corner versus Ravanelli in the red.

SOUTHAMPTON (4-4-2): D Beasant — J Dodd, A Neilson, R Dryden, S Charlton — M Oakley (S Bannan 56 mins), J Moughtin (sub: F Benall, 70 mins), B Versoon, N Hooney — M Le Tissier, N Shipperley. CHELSEA (3-5-2): D Kharine — E Johnson, F Laboul, S Clotte — D Patescu, D Wise, R Di Matteo, C Burley (sub: J Morris, 58 mins), A Myers — M Hughes, G Vialli. Referee: M Bodenham.

A GOAL TO SAVOUR AND A DEBUT TO REMEMBER IN THE PREMIERSHIP



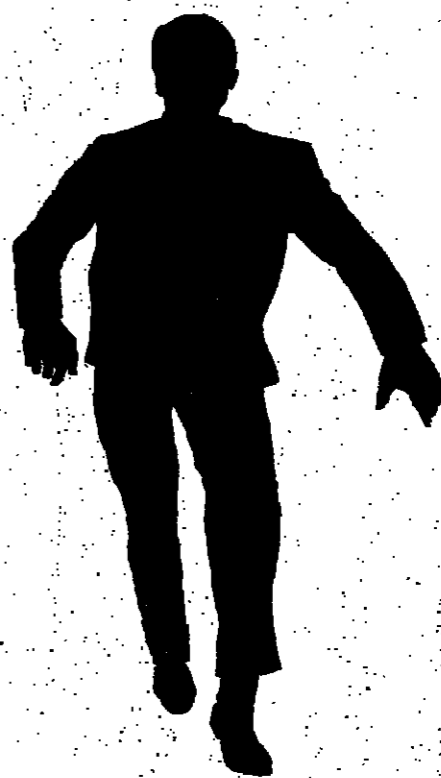
The third United goal was a gem of sublime effrontery by the improving David Beckham, lobbed over Sullivan from the halfway line. The conception and execution were remarkable. Even Pele did not quite bring it off in the 1970 World Cup.

Brian Glanville, page 24



But the Silver Fox was allowed once more into the hen-house of the Liverpool defence, and he got enough contact on Mustoe's pass to finish his hat-trick and to go into his now familiar berserker routine of celebration.

Simon Barnes, page 25



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FOOTBALL: ITALIAN STRIKER RAISES EUROPEAN STANDARD WITH STUNNING DEBUT DISPLAY

Teessiders fall for Ravanelli's tricks

As they do not call it a trucco di capello, but Ravanelli's tripleta, or three-goal performance, was emphatically the trick of the day as, after a break of, well, several days at least, the FA Carling Premiership swung back into action again on Saturday, when Liverpool left the Riverside Stadium with a 3-3 draw.

SIMON BARNES



At Riverside Stadium

game's ancient values have been stood on their heads. Is the Premiership really now the world's great league? Watch Ravanelli and Emerson perform that interchange and you think, yes; watch their Brazilian team-mate, Juninho, darting here and there in renewed and vitriolic confidence, and you find confirmation.



Ravanelli celebrates the second of his three goals for Middlesbrough in idiosyncratic fashion on Saturday

Barnes put Liverpool ahead again, another player getting ahead of a hesitant defence, but then Liverpool, dozing from a quickly-taken free kick, allowed Cox to cross for Ravanelli to ruck the ball away with prodigious grace.

finish his hat-trick and to go into his now familiar berserker routine of celebration. All jolly amusing, and so forth, but, after the match, I spoke to the reporter from Gazzetta dello Sport, a man with an air of a Borgias cardinal. "A nice match, yes," he agreed. "And perhaps now they will buy some Italian defenders."

shirts. This a great bubble of delight, and those like Ravanelli who come seeking the bubble reputation with the right sincerity find themselves greatly loved.

Premiership as the season begins. There is abroad a mood almost of frivolity. As if all clubs bar one were really competing for second place. As if it were necessary to sell style rather than content, entertainment rather than sport.

Campbell's early resurgence the stuff of fantasy

Coventry City 0 Nottingham Forest 3

IT IS the waking nightmare of every dream team manager: you have £50 million to spend, you are down to your last thirty bob, and you are still one striker short of a full complement. The only player available is Kevin Campbell: so you play with ten men and hope your keeper will pop up with a goal or two.

new FA Carling Premiership campaign. Ravanelli may have ignited the Riverside Stadium, Beckham may have one hand on the goal-of-the-season award, but for pure, unadulterated fantasy, Highfield Road was the only place to be on Saturday.

re-emerge: leaner, sharper, with a startling turn of pace and a ravenous appetite for goals. Each of his strikes had much to commend them — bravery for the first, accuracy for the second, and a display of mind-boggling ball-juggling for the third — and he might have had three more. It was a performance as outstanding as it was unexpected.

that he would be a good acquisition for us. My faith in him never wavered." Clark knows, though, that just as one hat-trick does not make Campbell, at 26, the finished article, so one victory, no matter how emphatic, does not turn Forest into title contenders. The good news was that Campbell's partnership with the eager Saunders gelled instantly, that Forest's attacks were far less predictable, and that a reshaped defence allowed the unflappable Croghan, Jerkan, to add authority at its heart. The bad? They will not be playing Coventry City every week.

strike at goal, with nearly an hour gone, drew ironic applause. McAllister, their £3 million recruit from Leeds United, was the best of a sorry bunch, but even he was reduced to frustrated posturing at the chaos around him.

ing," he said, "but we did not mind all the talk being about other teams. We knew we would miss Stan Collymore when we sold him to Liverpool, but it was not a problem for Kevin, and it was the same for me following Brian [Clough]. If you go out and do a job to the best of your ability, people will judge you on that."

Managers draw sparse comfort

Derby County 3 Leeds United 3

IT WAS clammy down in the corridors underneath the main stand at the Baseball Ground. The pink bows on the bedraggled bunch of flowers that had found its way on to the press room table had come undone and the daisies were wilting. Jim Smith, the Derby County manager, saw them as soon as he walked in. "It looks like a bloody wedding party in here," he said.

Huff and puff fails to bring the house down

Sunderland 0 Leicester City 0

THE Union Jack on top of the Clock Stand at Roker Park hardly moved, even a reluctant breeze refusing to issue from the nearby North Sea to set it aflutter. Down below, at pitch level, there was a hurricane of activity. Twenty-two athletes toiled in the cruel sun but it was all futile without some mastery, ingenuity, or even a goal, to douse the fire.

Humphreys turns tide for Wednesday

Sheffield Wednesday 2 Aston Villa 1

having a brilliant future by Marco van Basten, no less, to volley fiercely past Oakes from just inside the box. "Humphreys is a good technical player," David Pleat, the Sheffield Wednesday manager, said. "His timing is very good, although he didn't show it today. Well, he showed it when it counted, for one second."

Quinn: goal disallowed

Sunderland 0 Leicester City 0

Quinn said Leicester were "resolute and strong". Keller thought his team was "defensively really solid". Martin O'Neill, the Leicester manager, issued the understatement of the day when he described the match as "hectic". Peter Reid, his counterpart at Sunderland, said he was surprised no one had passed out from heat exhaustion.

Blackburn double rubs salt in Rovers' wounds

Blackburn Rovers 0 Tottenham Hotspur 2

THE injury to Gary Mabbutt spoilt Tottenham Hotspur's win but the game was dominated by another absentee. The ghost of Alan Shearer cast a long shadow over Blackburn Rovers. It took only two minutes for the familiar, long, drawn-out chant of "Shearer, Shearer" to echo round Ewood Park. But it came from the Blackburn fans, and it was sung mockingly.

Caretaker Houston decides to stick with staple diet

Arsenal 2 West Ham United 0

NOUVELLE cuisine it was not. The French connection has been made, but until Arsene Wenger has his Gallic touch to bear in five or six weeks' time, the Highbury fare will continue to be more bangers and mash than paté de foie gras.

Table with 2 columns: Team Name and Score. Includes Blackburn Rovers, Tottenham Hotspur, Arsenal, and West Ham United.

BY PETER BALL and BY PAT GIBSON

Stewart Gallacher said, "We know that we can shut them up by scoring. We've just got to get on with it, put the ghost of Alan Shearer away, and forget about it."

For half an hour, Sherwood led by example and exhortation, gestulating, waving, pointing, winning the ball constantly in midfield and using it purposefully.

Full results guide: 26 Marvel of McCoo, 27 Venables on Euro 96

Apart from that, the caretaker was delighted with a performance which showed all the traditional Arsenal characteristics of strength and resilience in the face of adversity.

No one felt that bile more acutely than Keown, the acting captain, who was as close to Rioch as any of the players, so much so that he had a phone call from the former manager before the match to wish him all the best.

With Howells, Anderton, until he too departed with a groin strain, and Sheringham pulling the strings and Armstrong running eagerly, Tottenham stretched even Blackburn's solid defence to its limits.

When Villa hit back, Pressman repelled all comers, and it was no surprise when this new, direct, ultra-confident Wednesday extended their lead. Blinker again crossed from the left and Whittingham's header looped beyond Oakes. Oakes was called upon to perform further heroics before Johnson headed in Wright's cross to give Villa a chance, but Wednesday conquered a late anxiety attack and hung on.

Pleat, meanwhile, is expecting to sign Orlando Trustfull, a former team-mate of Blinker's at Feyenoord.

BBC MATCH-DAY THE NEW weekly magazine only 61 on sale every Thursday

airing need...

manage...

US OF 10-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

Table of FA Carling Premiership fixtures and results, including teams like Arsenal, Liverpool, Manchester United, and Chelsea.

Table of FA Carling Premiership fixtures and results, including teams like Tottenham, Blackburn, and Newcastle.

EUROPEAN TRANSFER TRENDS

Text discussing European transfer trends, mentioning clubs like Arsenal, Liverpool, and Manchester United, and players like Dennis Bergkamp and Stuart Pearce.

McCoist not yet ready to hang up his boots

Kevin McCarr's commentary on Kevin McCoist's decision to retire, noting his long career and current struggles.

Kevin McCarr's commentary continues, discussing the impact of McCoist's retirement on Celtic and the Scottish game.

Kevin McCarr's commentary continues, reflecting on McCoist's legacy and the challenges he faced.

Kevin McCarr's commentary continues, providing a final assessment of McCoist's career.

Kevin McCarr's commentary continues, discussing the broader context of Scottish football.

Kevin McCarr's commentary continues, reflecting on the future of Celtic and the Scottish game.

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Kevin McCarr's commentary continues, reflecting on the future of Celtic and the Scottish game.

Nationwide Football League logo and branding.

Bell's logo and branding.

Table of Premier Division football fixtures and results.

Table of Premier Division football fixtures and results.

Table of First Division football fixtures and results.

Table of First Division football fixtures and results.

Table of Second Division football fixtures and results.

Table of Second Division football fixtures and results.

Table of Third Division football fixtures and results.

Table of Third Division football fixtures and results.

Table of Conference football fixtures and results.

Table of Conference football fixtures and results.

Table of National Leagues football fixtures and results.

Table of National Leagues football fixtures and results.

Table of Pools Check football fixtures and results.

Table of Pools Check football fixtures and results.



Steve Bruce, on his competitive debut for Birmingham City, intervenes against Carl Veart, the Crystal Palace forward, during the first division match at St Andrew's yesterday. Photograph: Nick Potts. Report, page 24

NON-LEAGUE AND NATIONAL LEAGUES

Table of Non-League and National Leagues fixtures and results.

Table of Non-League and National Leagues fixtures and results.

Stevenage throw down the gauntlet

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Alloa are considering staging their Scottish Coca-Cola Cup tie against Celtic in Glasgow. The third division club know that they will not be able to play the match at Recreation Park and must look elsewhere. Ewan Cameron, the club's secretary, said: "There are three grounds we will be considering in the week ahead. Two of these are Hampden Park and Firhill, in Glasgow, and the other is Dunfermline's East End Park."

Table of Pools Check football fixtures and results.

Table of Pools Check football fixtures and results.

EUROPE

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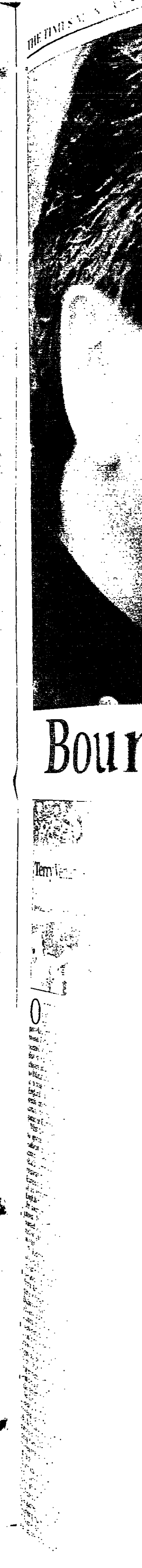
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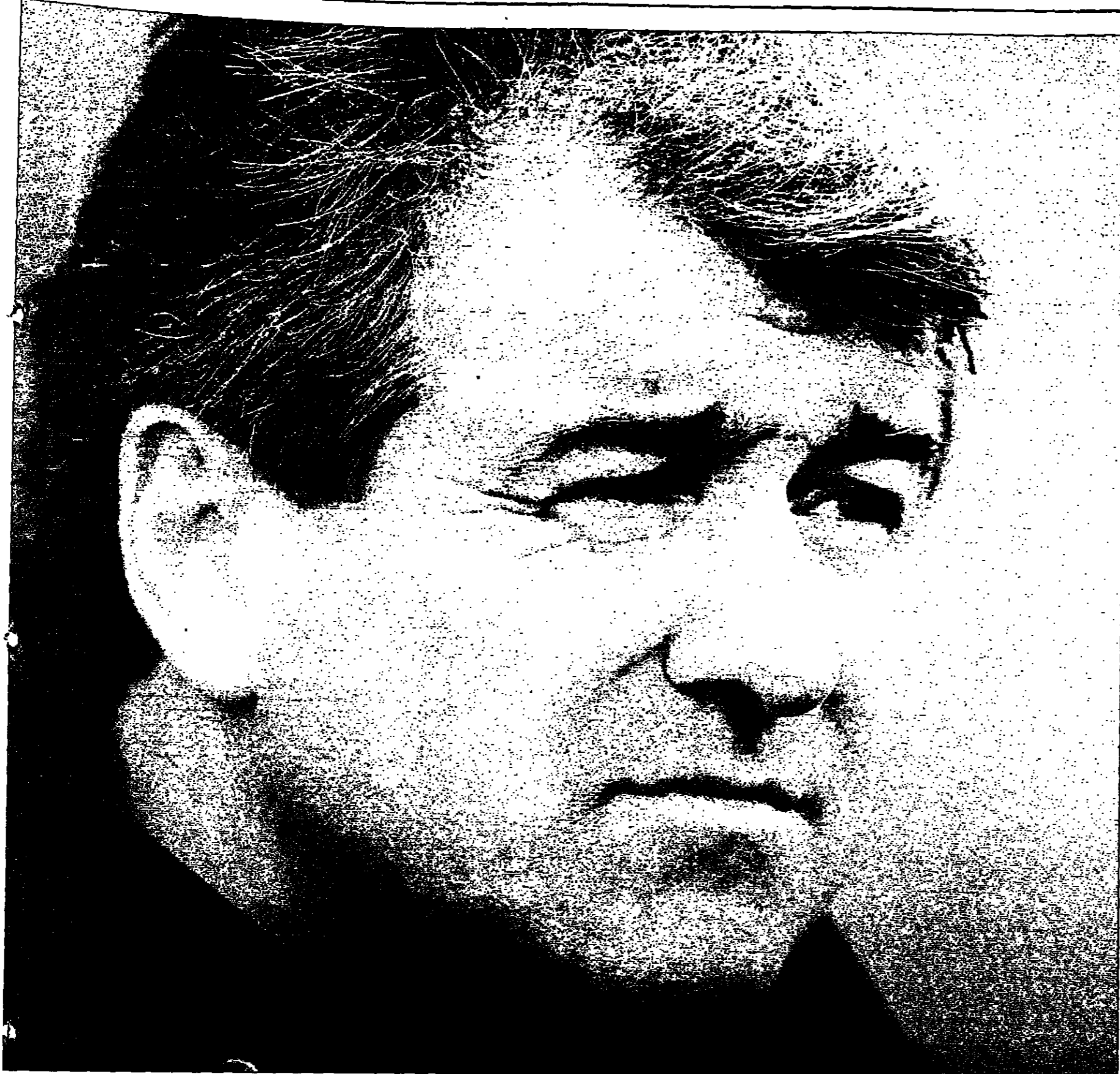
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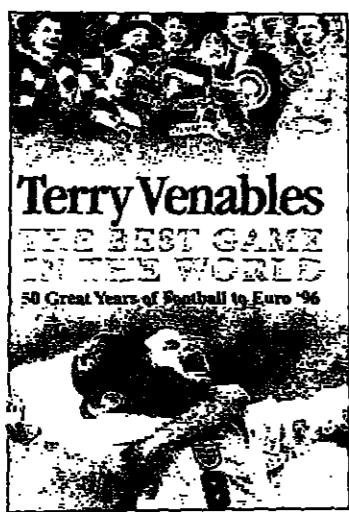


England players posed good-naturedly for photographs on the Great Wall at the start of their tour of China and Hong Kong. A shadow spread over the trip with stories of rowdy drinking bouts centred around Gascoigne, whose birthday it was, allegations strongly refuted by Venables

Bound for a bumpy landing

BY TERRY VENABLES

England's Euro 96 build-up hardly ran smooth, with a much-criticised Far East trip and allegations of wild behaviour. But, in his new book, their coach says adverse publicity strengthened their resolve



Our preparation for the big event was wound up with a trip to the Far East that provoked criticism from beginning to end. For a start, nearly everyone seemed to come to the conclusion that it was madness to take the players on a 16,000-mile round trip to Peking and Hong Kong so close to a major tournament played in England. It would have made much more sense, argued the critics, to have prepared with games in Europe. What they overlooked, or chose to ignore, was the oft-repeated explanation that the Football Association should complete their Euro 96 preparations as far away from Europe as possible, so that the risk of an embarrassing outbreak of English hooliganism on the eve of the tournament could be minimised. In other words, the FA wanted us to play in places where the hooligans would find it difficult to follow. We had three options. The other two were South Africa and America, but neither could give me the two games I wanted. I told the South Africans I would like one game in Johannesburg and one in Durban or Cape Town, because I felt we would have had to do a lot of coaching in Johannesburg if we'd coached there all the time. Politically it would have been expected of us, and we would have been perfectly happy to do it in other circumstances; but I thought it might bring unnecessary pressures on the eve of a major tournament. The American option, taken up by Scotland, was not a great deal different to our trip in terms of the travelling time. In fact, it was more difficult because you normally suffer more from jet-lag when you are coming forwards in time, as you are when travelling from the States to Britain. In any case, modern sport is all about global travel. Brazil, for instance, think nothing of hopping on a plane to fly over 5,000 miles to play a game in the Middle East, then getting back on the plane and going home. And what about tennis players on the grand prix circuit? I

was listening to the radio during Wimbledon fortnight, and I couldn't help chuckling when I heard what their itinerary is like. They are in California one minute, then they go to Hong Kong, Australia and France before fetching up at Wimbledon. How can you play world sport sitting still, or just travelling for an hour and a half? I think it was naivety and ignorance that made so many people critical of our trip to the Far East. No one was willing after Euro 96, though, to say it did us no harm physically. I had a bit of banter about it with Gary Lineker, because he was one of those who claimed it had been a bad decision to take the players on such a long trip. I said to him: "Why don't you admit you were wrong? Did we play for 120 minutes in two games on the trot in five days? Did we look less fit than anyone else? Did we look less relaxed than anyone else? So why criticise the trip? I think your problem was that you were imagining how it would have been eight years ago, when you were a player. It's different now." There always used to be this talk about how English footballers were more tired than anyone else when it came to the finals of a major tournament because their season was longer and harder than anyone else's. But our performances in Euro 96 proved that, despite the rigours of an English football season and a long trip to the Far East, the English footballer can be as fit as anyone in the world if the right amount of thought and preparation is applied to the situation. We chose China and Hong Kong in the end because they could guarantee us two games and because I was impressed by the rate at which Chinese football is developing. In fact, the FA should be thinking about taking England back there, or somewhere nearby, at least three times in the next six years in preparation for the finals of the 2002 World Cup, which is to be shared by Japan and South Korea. The Chinese are certainly going to catch up very quickly. Lazio and Sampdoria had played in Peking before us, so the Chinese seem to have a strong tie-up with Italy. They obviously feel the Italians are the best opponents, it gives them a benchmark for what they are doing, and I think that's wise of them. Our 3-0 win in Peking was beneficial in all sorts of ways. Southgate really blossomed in that game. He was outstanding, in fact. The young Neville brothers, Gary and Philip, also shone. Gary certainly showed what he could do. I think it was the first time he and Tony Adams had played together. The 1-0 win in Hong Kong also had its benefits, even though it wasn't successful as a match. It enabled me to involve all the players. There were insinuations all along that the only reason we went to China and Hong Kong was mon-

ey. The financial incentive for going happened to be good, but that was not the real motivation, which was to get two more games. And the more I look back, the more I think I was right to take England there. The players and I could not possibly have taken another ten days at the Burnham Beeches Hotel, nice as it is. The pressures of living in a goldfish bowl for a month were quite severe enough without extending the period any further. Not only that, but everything we had set out to do in China and Hong Kong worked as well as, if not better than, we had hoped. Everything except the Cathay

They were not doing anybody any harm, they were not causing any trouble and not breaking curfew. From the hysterical reaction back home you'd have thought they had raped and pillaged their way through Hong Kong

Pacific flight home, that is. Some nine hours after we had landed, the airline alleged that two of the mini-television sets which are built into the backs of business-class seats and a seat tray-table had been damaged in the upper deck section of the jumbo jet, where the players were sitting during the 14-hour journey to Heathrow. Although no pictorial evidence of the alleged vandalism was ever produced, Cathay Pacific claimed it would cost £5,000 to repair the damage and the FA paid up without any argument. The conclusion

those two are going to continue with their legal action, but they would wipe the floor with their accusers in court if they did. I wasn't there on the upper deck myself, but guys I just don't believe would tell lies all say the same thing. I questioned certain players individually about the incident and they all told me the same story. Only a small number of them were involved, anyway, because most of the squad were fast asleep during the flight home. I know that for a fact because more than one FA official visited the upper deck at

different times. Ted Buxton, my assistant, went up there at one point to sort out a complaint from a stewardess who claimed Gazza had been abusive to her, but that was the only sign of trouble so far as I was aware. There was certainly no noise coming from the upper deck. I was determined myself not to go to sleep until about seven hours into the flight so that I could stay in line with English time. During that period, Gary Newbon, the ITV sports interviewer, and I had a long chat at the bottom of the stairs leading up to the upper section of business class. We didn't hear a sound from up there, yet nobody

GROWING PAINS OF ENGLAND'S WAYWARD GENIUS. How Gascoigne survived in the glare of hostile publicity. Gazza did well to say, in effect: "I'm not being rude, I just want to be quiet. I've been hammered out of all that. I just don't want to get involved in all that again." He has to deal with things that throw him. No one could take all that he has to contend with. You just have to hope people can grow with it, as the Klinsmanns and the Linekers have. But even they never had people following them around in case they slipped up. Lineker, a very popular character, will take care of things and do it right, so they'll leave him alone. But Gazza's let his guard drop a couple of times, so they keep following him to see if he'll do it again. What people don't understand about Paul is that he is completely different from his public image. Everyone thinks he's a big shot who couldn't care less if you told him off. But he is not like that. He hates to let you down.

nate, I'll admit. But they were not doing anybody any harm, they were not causing any trouble and they were not breaking curfew. They had been given the night off, and they all returned to the hotel by the 2am deadline I set. Not only that, but the bulk of the squad did not even leave the hotel. From the hysterical reaction back home, though, you'd have thought they had all raped and pillaged their way through Hong Kong. Again, Gazza took most of the criticism because it was his birthday and he figured most prominently in the pictures. I was annoyed by the reaction because it was made to look as though discipline was slack in the England squad. Yet I've never had any problem on that score throughout my 20-year career as a coach and manager. I am fairly easy going, but the players know there is a line they mustn't cross. I used to say to them: "If you were with your wife and young children and there was a bunch of 12 guys swearing and effing and blinding and slamming doors, would you like it? No? Well don't do it to anyone else then. If you want to do it, go and do it somewhere else." I hate that sort of thing so much. I once put a player on the transfer list for verbally abusing a waiter while we were abroad. I also suspended the German international, Bernd Schuster, for a year at Barcelona. That was his punishment for walking out of the stadium in a huff after I substituted him during the 1986 European Cup final against Steaua Bucharest. It was irresponsible behaviour because, had we won — not lost — on penalties, he could have cost us the game if he had been selected for a drugs test and not been available. As for the drinking side of it, you've got to use a bit of psychology. If you ban players from going to a pub after Thursday, say, they'll go to one 30 miles out of town so you don't find out. You've got to try and make them understand why they shouldn't go out, and let them build up a conscience about it. I remember reading a magazine article about Vietnam, and they were saying the day of the Sergeant-Major has gone. Leadership has to be more skilful than that. Saying "don't do it because I say so" doesn't wash any more. You've got to be one of the boys, but not quite. That means they can talk to you, tell you what their problems are, but you've got to be removed. They've got to be comfortable with you, like your company in some ways and not want to lose it. That's how you make the relationship grow. But I have to say the fuss over the night out in Hong Kong, and then over three players being spotted in an 11ford nightclub during the 36 hours they were given off after the Switzerland game, was out of all proportion to the 'offences'. They were put in perspective later by the

tales we heard about the drinking exploits in some of the other camps. At one point, it seems, every night was party night for the Czech Republic and they got to the final! I'm not suggesting we should relax our attitude to drinking. In fact, we had a ban on alcohol throughout the week, and the players adhered to it strictly. But I just wish the media would not react so hysterically to what they interpret, mistakenly for the most part, as footballers letting the side down. In terms of psychology, the torrent of criticism directed at the players over the China Jump Club and Cathay Pacific incidents was not without its advantages. I have to be honest and say I saw it as an ideal opportunity to forge the spirit of togetherness in the squad that had been one of the objectives of the Far East trip anyway. It wasn't too hard to do, because I could see we were all upset about the way it was going and we all know that is the sort of thing team bonding is about. You feel hurt and aggrieved and develop an 'I'll show you' attitude. When criticism is unjust and hurtful, it does make you fight. If you are guilty of doing something, it's hard to respond in a positive fashion, because you've just got to hold your hands up and accept the blame. I was criticised for introducing a policy of collective responsibility for the Cathay Pacific damage, but I could do that with a clear conscience because I knew nothing out of order had occurred on the flight home. The united front certainly got us to where I wanted to be a lot quicker than normal. The Italians and other teams have done something similar in the past, but it has usually involved a media blackout. To be fair, we never refused to cooperate with our newspaper, television and radio people. Most of us did our press conference stints every day, which pleased me. We discussed the situation and I made it clear we still had responsibilities to the public, who wanted to know what we thought. I also pointed out that it was not necessarily the guilty newspapers the players would be punishing by refusing interviews. We decided to take it a step at a time, but fortunately the mood of the whole nation turned round anyway with each successful game we played. Gazza, McManaman and Fowler were the exceptions because they had been blamed for the trouble. They were raging about it and refused to speak to anyone. But, on the whole, I think we handled it well. Extracted from The Best Game in the World by Terry Venables, published by Century on September 5 at £15.99. TOMORROW A slow start to Euro 96 and Gascoigne's wonder goal

CRICKET: WORCESTERSHIRE AND YORKSHIRE STEP UP CHALLENGE FOR HONOURS IN TIGHTLY CONTESTED AXA & EQUITY LEAGUE

Leatherdale rises to challenge as Middlesex falter

LORD'S (Middlesex won toss): Worcestershire (wps) beat Middlesex by two runs

By SIMON WILDE

DAVID LEATHERDALE is one of those county cricketers who was identified at an early age as possessing a special talent and spent most of the rest of his career frustratingly failing to live up to it. But he played a starring role in a thrilling victory yesterday that keeps Worcestershire's hopes of a fourth Sunday league title very much alive.

well under 20. But his 50 occupied only 50 balls, which in these conditions was match-winning batting.

largely frustrated from start to finish.

Despite a short boundary on the Tavern side, strokes worth four runs were almost out of the question, let alone ones worth six. The Worcestershire fielders, in particular, defended this short boundary brilliantly, Spiring parolling the ropes tirelessly.

TABLE with columns P, W, L, D, NR, Pts and rows for various counties like Surrey, Notts, Yorkshire, etc.

(Last season's positions in brackets)

On a pitch so chokingly slow it could have beaten the Boston Strangler in an asphyxiation contest, Leatherdale, 28, scored 50, the highest innings of the game, and took four wickets for 31, career-best figures, to stifle and then snuff out Middlesex's faltering attempts to chase 174 to win.

A key factor in the outcome was that Middlesex bowled their overs so slowly that they were permitted to face 39 overs, rather than 40, themselves. Had they had an extra over, they would surely have won the match, although Worcestershire did their best to make amends by bowling a clutch of wides and no-balls early in the Middlesex innings.

Although there was a tense finale, it was, in many ways, an unsatisfactory day's cricket. One-day cricket is essentially about entertainment, as is watching the game on a sweltering summer's day.

They spent 17 overs garnering 52 runs, Spiring spending 54 balls scoring 16 and Moody 64 over his 40. Of the 56 runs made between them, 46 came in singles and ten of them in twos, all of the latter to Moody. Although the rate of scoring picked up significantly in the second half of the innings, only five boundaries were struck in all, four by Leatherdale and one by Rhodes, who hit a vital 27 from 19 balls at the end.

Hick's dismissal was typical of a man whose form, and luck, have deserted him. He had faced three balls when he responded to Moody's call for a quick single only to see Fay, the bowler, moving across to field the ball himself on the outside. His shy at the further end of stumps scored a direct hit.

It completed an unhappy four days — and, indeed, an unhappy season — for Hick on the greatest stage in English cricket. In seven innings there, his highest score is a paltry seven.



Robert Croft, newly called up by England, is bowled by Shaun Pollock during Glamorgan's AXA & Equity League defeat by Warwickshire at Edgbaston

Hartley streaks to Sunday best innings

BRISTOL (Yorkshire won toss): Yorkshire (wps) beat Gloucestershire by 133 runs

in himself with Moxon and, lead from the front, he certainly did.

FOR Yorkshire, it will be small consolation for defeat in the semi-finals of the NatWest Trophy and the loss of direction in the county championship, but at least they are still in with a shout when it comes to the AXA Equity & Law Sunday League. Yesterday, they displayed rare all-round skills in trouncing Gloucestershire by dint of batting, bowling and fielding in a different class to that of their opponents.

It was in fact, a bowler, Peter Hartley, whose batting ensured that Gloucestershire were confronted by the formidable total of 262 for seven. He smote the ball to all parts of the ground after the essential foundations had been laid by Martyn Moxon, Michael Vaughan and David Byas. It was an all-rounder, Craig White, who produced a devastating opening burst of three for 23 in six overs, and ran out Matthew Windows with a kick on to the stumps. This reduced Gloucestershire to a desperate 53 for four.

Finally, it was a specialist bowler, Richard Stemp, who removed Hancock, a dangerous-looking Lynch, Russell and Walsh in six overs for a career best four for 25, which wrapped up victory for Yorkshire with nearly 11 overs to spare.

In reaching 262 for seven, their highest Sunday score of the season and highest in the competition against Gloucestershire, Byas, the Yorkshire captain, resorted to some astute juggling of the batting order. To set the tone, he went

Against comparatively under-manning bowling — Walsh kept himself back until the game was ten overs old — these two put on 50 inside the first eight overs. Byas was a commanding figure, driving straight and often, moving to his 56 from 50 balls with six boundaries off the middle of the bat. Nemesis was at hand, however, in the guise of Walsh. Byas fell to him for the third time in as many innings, but by then the first-wicket pair had reached 94 and Yorkshire were on course.

It was then that Yorkshire bowled more economically than anyone and accounted for Moxon. When Symonds bowled White, Yorkshire had lost three wickets in adding 30 runs and the innings was still in the balance. White's was one promotion that did not come off, and while Vaughan, stroked the ball around pleasantly, the elevation of Gough to come in at the fall of the third wicket was also unsuccessful. But help was at hand.

Hartley, who came in at the fall of the fourth wicket, lost Vaughan, leg-before to a straight one from Lewis, but this did not deter him from indulging his penchant for hitting sixes at Bristol. A brace in the county match just gone was followed by four more from scoring straight drives as he added 48 in five overs with Blackley. He rose to a career Sunday best 52 from 29 balls, hit a four to accompany his sixes and left Gloucestershire with far too much to do.

They never really gave Yorkshire much cause for concern. Only Lynch batted long enough to look menacing and when Stemp had him well caught by Moxon at point, Gloucestershire were 89 for five and victory a formality.

Warwickshire prove their resilience



By IVO TENNANT

WARWICKSHIRE, the AXA Equity & Law League runners-up last season and champions in 1994, are not a club in repose. Their victory over Glamorgan yesterday, achieved by the emphatic margin of seven wickets, took them to within two points of the leaders, Surrey, who did not have a match. Nottinghamshire and Yorkshire. Nick Knight, their England opener, made one of the most telling contributions, his unbeaten innings of 73 including seven fours.

— but they are still a considerable side. Knight was given support by Brown, who contributed 77 before he was leg-before to Croft. These two added 81, taking their time to reach their target with 13 balls to spare.

Croft, Knight's putative colleague at the Oval on Thursday, made 23 off 29 balls and then took one for 15 in eight overs, as tight a spell of bowling as an off spinner can expect to return in this form of the game. This was something for Glamorgan to savour. There was little else in a match in which their batsmen never managed to cope with a slow Edgbaston pitch. They lost their first five wickets for 33 through a succession of mistimed shots against the medium pace of Munton and Small. The only partnership of

note was 43 between Gibson and Dale.

Warwickshire still have to contend with Nottinghamshire, who won by eight wickets with 19 balls to spare at Derby. Accomplished batting by Robinson and Johnson took them to victory after Derbyshire had failed to make a challenging total. At one stage they were 171 for two with ten overs still remaining, but the innings fell away.

the target was reached with some ease.

There was an exceedingly close finish at Old Trafford, not for the first time this season in limited-overs cricket. On this occasion Lancashire beat Hampshire by one run. Smith contributing the highest score of the match, 77 from 63 balls.

Lancashire seek new coach

By IVO TENNANT

LANCASHIRE have dismissed John Stanworth, their acting head coach, just a few days after defeating Yorkshire to reach their second one-day final of the summer. Bob Bennett, the club chairman, said: "He has done a great job and will stay in a senior capacity, but we have decided to look for a new man, preferably one with international experience."

Paul Terry, the Hampshire and former England opening batsman, is looking to play for another county next year after being told that his contract is not to be renewed. Aged 37, he has scored more than 16,000 runs for the county and played in two Tests against West Indies in 1984.

He has scored 1,000 runs in a season 11 times and made his Sri Lanka at Southampton in 1990. An outstanding catcher, he was overlooked for the Hampshire captaincy in favour of John Stephenson when the latter retired at the end of last season. A special general meeting of MCC members, chaired by Sir Oliver Poplewell, the president, is to be held at

SUNDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

AXA Equity & Law League Derby v Notts, Kent v Somerset, Worcestershire v Gloucestershire, Middlesex v Warwickshire, Lancashire v Hampshire, Yorkshire v Gloucestershire, Warwickshire v Glamorgan, Edgbaston (wps) beat Gloucestershire by seven wickets

Warwickshire v Glamorgan, Edgbaston (wps) beat Gloucestershire by seven wickets. Includes player statistics for Knight, Brown, Croft, etc.

Warwickshire v Glamorgan, Edgbaston (wps) beat Gloucestershire by seven wickets. Includes player statistics for Knight, Brown, Croft, etc.

Warwickshire v Glamorgan, Edgbaston (wps) beat Gloucestershire by seven wickets. Includes player statistics for Knight, Brown, Croft, etc.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344. Contains various legal notices including company liquidations and public notices.

Salisbury raises transfer Contenders over the...

CRICKET

Salisbury case raises issue of transfer system

ALAN LEE



Championship Commentary

THIS is to be a busy, diverse and potentially unpalatable day for Sussex cricket. By this evening, they will know from Lord's if they are to be the first club to have a player suspended for failing a drugs test...

other counties' players if they think they might be willing to move and we are never going to stop that. In my view, cricket will soon have talent scouts operating, just as happens in football. We already have a transfer system and we must acknowledge it and find a method of regulating it more fairly...

Holloioake presses his England claims

Simon Wilde on the Surrey all-rounder who is in the frame for a tour place



GRAHAM MORRIS

On the first morning of the representative match between a TCCB XI and South Africa A at Chester-le-Street last Thursday, things were not going well for the bright young things of England. The seamers were bowling without luck and repeatedly missing the edge of the bat...

Holloioake's contribution with the bat and as Stewart's deputy is always forthright

necessarily hold with the majority view, delivered with a cool-eyed conviction that suggests that he does not give ground easily. He admits that if he were not captaining a side - which rarely happens as he is

deputy to Alec Stewart at Surrey - he would have to get involved in other ways. He unashamedly concedes that this might involve "talking to the opposition". As someone who played five seasons of grade cricket

in Australia, Holloioake's local knowledge would be invaluable, but he may do better than that because, as England's search for a No 6 goes on, his name is in the frame. Quite rightly, too, because he is averaging over

60 with the bat and is one of the few specialists in the country. He knows exactly what is involved. "As a batsman you must be worth your place in the side and capable of dealing with different situations," he said. "You could go in with your side in a strong position and needing you to drive home the advantage, or you could be dug them out of it. As a bowler, you must be able to bowl ten tight overs while your main bowlers rest. I really enjoy it."

'If England are only looking for another Botham, they are wasting their time'

say "I'm England's man", but that was probably the drift. Holloioake strongly believes no side should ever go into a match without a spin bowler (this only a week after England's failed all-seam strategy at Headingley) and thinks it "almost a crime" not to use every batsman in a limited-overs innings. Last week, Surrey lost a NatWest Trophy semi-final in which only three batsmen got to the crease before the 44th of 60 overs and Julian, an in-form big-hitter, did not bat at all.

Holloioake - whose brother Ben has represented England Under-19 this summer - surely has something to offer England. His destructive batting would be well suited to one-day internationals, and though he may struggle to restrain the world's best with his seam bowling, he has devised some clever variations. He deserves a chance.



Giddins: drugs hearing

there is little Sussex can do to keep him. They can, and will, offer him new, improved terms and they can ensure that he is a List One, contested registration. But this will not deter any would-be employer when a Test cricketer is on the market and nor, more importantly, does it offer anything but moral restitution to the club suffering the loss.



Salisbury: unsettled

Contenders keep Kent cogitating over the captaincy conundrum

Selecting Mark Benson's replacement is no easy matter, Ivo Tennant reports

CONFERRING the captaincy of Kent without rancour is an art that has not often been mastered by successive general committees. Bill Murray Wood learnt of his dismissal in Canterbury week, when he heard the cry of a newspaper vendor on the boundary. Mike Denness, the most successful of all their leaders, was succeeded by Asif Iqbal after winning two trophies in one season. Chris Tavaré was replaced by Christopher Cowdrey against the wishes of the senior players. Being usurped or overlooked never did appeal to any cricketer.

Matthew Fleming, the Old Etonian all-rounder who plays his cricket with a zest that the ancients would have recognised. What has exacerbated the situation is that Kent, at a time when they are challenging strongly for the county championship, have had three captains in three weeks: Marsh, before he was injured; Hooper, under whom they were beaten for the first time this season and who was offered the vice-captaincy earlier in the campaign; and Ward, who is leading them at present. Since the injured Benson will not play at all this season, and committees will never please everybody, a long-term decision might best be made henceforth.



Benson: out injured

the recommendation of the cricket committee, upon which sit such notable former players as Denness, Bob Wilson, Derek Ufton, the chairman, and, as co-opted members, Arthur Pheby, Derek Underwood and Graham Johnson, will be accepted by the general committee. "But this decision will not be made out of court by lobby groups, as might have been the case in the past," Stuart Anderson, the secretary, insists.



Ward: senior player

Batting failures hand initiative to New Zealand

By RUPERT COX

WORCESTER: (third day of four) New Zealand Under-19 beat England Under-19 by eight wickets

A CHASTENING defeat inside three days left Graham Saville, the England Under-19 manager, at a loss to explain his team's indifferent performance at New Road.

back the trend at Hove, where the final four-day game starts on Thursday, if they are to draw level in the three-match series. The loss of their incisive new ball pairing of Alex Tudor, of Surrey, and Paul Hutchison, of Yorkshire, through injury has proved to be significant, only heightened by the continued absence of Alex Morris, the Yorkshire all-rounder, with a hand injury.

At Worcester, it was a lack of application among the early-order batsmen that undermined England with David Sewell, the touring team's

lively left-arm seamer, collecting match figures of ten for 98. On a reaid New Road wicket, New Zealand had been quietly content to be asked to field first on Thursday. Worcester is, though, always a perplexing wicket to read, and the reaid surface only added to the difficulties.

As it transpired, the wicket was at its most helpful for the seamers in the mornings and eased through the afternoon. Although Sewell did exploit some uneven bounce, the manner in which England's batsmen capitulated justified reprimand. The home team's

SATURDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Table with multiple columns showing cricket scores for various matches including Derbyshire v Nottinghamshire, Lancashire v Hampshire, Warwickshire v Glamorgan, and Kent v Somerset. Includes details like runs, wickets, and player names.

AUSTRALIAN RULES

Table with columns for AFL, VFL, and other leagues, listing teams and scores.

BASEBALL

Table showing MLB standings for American League and National League.

ATHLETICS

Kingston: Guardian Insurance British Athletics League. First division: 100m A, 1. Charles (Thames) 1:17.19.

STOCK-ON-TRENT

100m: 1. G. Gilling (Blackburn) 1:15.00. 200m: 1. G. Gilling (Blackburn) 3:35.00.

ALBUQUERQUE

New Mexico: World Boring Organisation... Albuquerque, NM.

BOULDS

Leamington SPA: Women's World... Leamington, Warwickshire.

BASEBALL

Table showing MLB standings for American League and National League.

ATHLETICS

Newham and Essex Beagles: 28. 3. Blackheath 24. 4. Swans 19. 5. City of London 18.

STOCK-ON-TRENT

100m: 1. G. Gilling (Blackburn) 1:15.00. 200m: 1. G. Gilling (Blackburn) 3:35.00.

FOR THE RECORD

4 H Robson 1730. 5 P Mason 1733. 6 J Redford 1735. 7 H W 1811.

BASEBALL

Table showing MLB standings for American League and National League.

ATHLETICS

Andrew Saywell parts company with Almare at the Derby Cup Derby at Hickstead yesterday.

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Today: Cricket. Tomorrow: Football. Other Sport: Athletics.

Today: Cricket. Tomorrow: Football. Other Sport: Athletics.

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Today: Cricket. Tomorrow: Football. Other Sport: Athletics.

Large advertisement for Toilets England, featuring a toilet and the slogan 'Toilets England finish last'.

Don't get left behind in football's £50,000 race

The Premiership is under way — and some of the world's most exciting footballers have been quick off the mark in making their presence felt and justifying those astonishing transfer fees.

But you will need to be quick if you want the added enjoyment of playing Interactive Team Football (ITF), the state-of-the-art football game, this season. The race for the first prize of £50,000 has already begun but it is not too late to catch up. Although the deadline for entries passed on Saturday, *The Times*, in association with Sky Sports Interactive, today offers you another chance to join ITF and show your football knowledge by selecting a team from the best players in Britain — those in the FA Carling Premiership and the leading clubs in the Bell's Scottish League.

The sooner you enter, the sooner your team will start to score points — and become eligible for the prizes. £50,000 will go to the season's winning team selector, £1,000 to the selector of the best team of the month and £250 for the best team of the week throughout the season. But you can only start scoring once your team has been registered — so don't delay. There are Premiership matches tonight, tomorrow and on Wednesday. From today postal entries will start scoring as soon as they are processed and telephone entries made by 12 noon will start scoring from matches played on that day onwards. You may enter as many teams as you like.

So what do you have to do? You have £35 million to spend on a team of 11 players and a manager. Study the lists of players in the five categories — goalkeepers, full backs, central defenders, midfield players and strikers — and the price of each. You must select a team in 4-4-2 formation, including one goalkeeper, two full backs, two central defenders, four midfield players and two strikers. You must pick a manager — who will have a price tag too.

All the players and managers have been allotted a five-digit code. Once you have selected your ITF team, you may enter it by post or telephone, using the entry form below. Then it is down to your players to score the points to take you to the top of the selectors' league. The points-scoring system reflects winning, losing and drawing, individual performance, consistency, goalscoring, defensive ability and fair play.

All matches from Saturday August 17 in the FA Carling Premiership, the Bell's Scottish League premier division and those in the FA Cup involving Premiership clubs and the Tennents Scottish Cup involving premier division clubs count for points.

But how should you choose your team? The essential rules are that you cannot have more than two individuals (two players or one player and the manager) from any one club in your team, you may not pick the same player twice and that you must not exceed your budget of £35 million. For example, if you select as your



IN ASSOCIATION WITH
sky sports
Interactive

striker the Liverpool pairing of Stan Collymore and Robbie Fowler, that will take up your Liverpool allocation. If, however, one of your selected midfield players, say Paul Gascoigne, leaves Rangers to join Liverpool, you will then have three at the Anfield club — but you need not worry. ITF has an active transfer system, which is in operation already, and you will be able to adjust your team accordingly. You must replace the outgoing player with one from the same category (a full back with a full back) and keep within your £35 million budget. Equally, if one of your players is transferred out of the Premiership or Scottish League premier division, he is no longer eligible for ITF. Any players from outside the Premiership or Scottish League premier division that are transferred to clubs playing in the top level during the season will become

available for transfer. Note, too, that there are several additional players since ITF was launched.

Your players and manager will win and lose you points. Points are awarded depending on every goal scored and conceded with three points earned for a goalkeeper or defender (full back and central defender) scoring a goal, two points for a midfielder player or striker scoring, three points for a defender keeping a clean sheet (not letting in a goal), four points for a goalkeeper maintaining a clean sheet, one point for a midfielder player keeping a clean sheet and all players receive one point for appearing in a match (providing they play for 45 minutes in that game). Any player scoring a hat-trick will receive six bonus points. To secure points for a clean sheet, a player must have played for at least 75 minutes in that match.

Points will be deducted for every goal a defender concedes (one), every goal a goalkeeper concedes (two), every booking a player receives (one), every time a player is sent off (three) and a point each for a penalty conceded by a player, a penalty missed and every own goal scored by a player.

If you have selected Kevin Keegan as your manager, you will earn three points if Newcastle United win, one point if they draw and have a point docked if they lose. If Keegan was dismissed or moved to a club outside the Premiership or Scottish League premier division, you would need a new manager. Not only will you be pitting

your selectorial skills against other readers of *The Times*, you will also be matching your wits against those in the know. With the support of the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA), current Premiership players have been encouraged to enter sides of their own.

There are two methods by which you may enter:

By post: fill in the entry form below (there is a step-by-step guide provided) showing the team in formation (photocopies are not acceptable) and send it with a cheque or postal order for £2 payable to *The Times Interactive Team Football* to Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU1 1ZZ. You will receive a letter of confirmation and notification of your Personal Identification Number (PIN) and team. The entry fee for registrations outside the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland is £5.

By telephone: using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone, call 0891 405 011 to record your team following the simple step-by-step instructions. Calls will be charged at 39p per minute (including 49p per minute at other times). Each call will last about eight minutes but will cost approximately double from a pay phone. The registration line for readers entering from the Republic of Ireland is 004 4990 100 320. Each player you enter will be confirmed on the telephone after you have completed your selection and the selector given a PIN.

All ITF queries should be directed to 01582 488 122.

EXCLUSIVE TO ITF ENTRANTS FORM YOUR OWN ITF MINI LEAGUE AND GET PERSONALISED UPDATES

This season you and your friends can compete directly against each other in your own ITF Mini-League all you need are four or more people (up to a maximum of 100) and a nominated chairperson.

A Mini-League is simple to set up and costs only £2.50 extra. A Mini-League may only be entered by post. Each player must enclose his or her ITF application form in the normal way (see entry instructions on these pages).

All payments and entry forms must be in the same envelope along with the attached

form and your additional £2.50, payable to *The Times Interactive Team Football*, Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU1 1ZZ. You cannot add members to your Mini-League after your initial entry.

The fee is £5 sterling for a Mini-League for entrants outside the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. Further details are available from 01582 488122.

Each month, a letter will be sent to the chairperson showing the position of all entrants in their Mini-League.

MINI LEAGUE ENTRY FORM

I enclose all team entries in the same envelope along with an additional cheque/postal order for £2.50. Please set up my Mini-League.

Chairperson's name

Mini-League name

I enclose entry forms with £2 entry fee each, plus an extra £2.50 to set up my mini league.

Total payment £



20 SIGNED COPIES OF THE PFA FOOTBALLERS FACTFILE TO BE WON

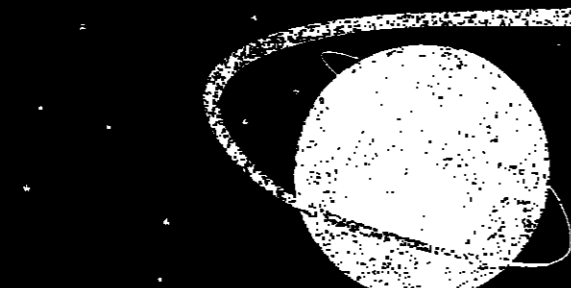
We have 20 copies of the PFA Footballers Factfile to be won by players who enter *The Times* ITF between today and Friday August 30. The winners will be selected at random and notified by September 20. The PFA Footballer Factfile is the perfect companion for any ITF manager, with profiles on over 2,000 professional players. Each copy will be signed by Gary and Philip Neville.



PLAY ITF ON-LINE
Play on-line to win all the great ITF prizes, including the £50,000 first prize. Plus play for special Internet prizes, such as the £1,000 top prize and the £250 monthly prize. You can also check your position in the internet league instantly, on-line.

HOW TO PLAY

1. Enter *The Times* Internet Edition at <http://www.the-times.co.uk>
2. Look for the special ITF button.
3. Entry on-line costs £7.50, payable only by credit card. This allows you to make transfers for the entire season.



HOW TO ENTER BY TELEPHONE

You must have a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) to enter. You cannot enter using a rotary dial or 'pulse' telephone. You can enter your team by dialling 0891 405 011 (from the Republic of Ireland you must dial 004 4990 100 320).

Then follow the simple step-by-step instructions. Listen carefully and take your time. The recorded message will ask you to tap in (first speak) the full set of selections (using the five-digit player codes) for each of your chosen players and your manager in the following order: the goalkeeper, the two full backs, the two central defenders, the four midfield players, the two strikers and the manager. You will then be asked to give the name of your team (no more than 16 characters) and to record your name, address (with postcode) and daytime telephone number. Finally, you will be given a ten-digit Personal Identification Number (PIN). Please be patient. You have plenty of time to make your entry. Use *The Times Interactive Team Football* form, right, to record your selections and your PIN. Calls cost 39p per minute (including 49p per minute at other times). Each call will last about eight minutes. Each player you enter will be confirmed on the telephone after you have completed each selection. You will be notified of your PIN at the end of the call. No postal notification will be sent.

HOW TO PLAY

You have £35 million to spend on a team of 11 players and a manager.

You must pick

- 1 GOALKEEPER
- 2 CENTRAL DEFENDERS
- 2 STRIKERS
- 2 FULL BACKS
- 4 MIDFIELD PLAYERS
- 1 MANAGER

Choose your players and manager from the Interactive Team Football category lists (which include code numbers and values). The total value of your 11 players and manager must not exceed £35 million.

You must not pick more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club and no player can be picked twice.

Your players and manager accumulate points in all 1996-97 matches in the FA Carling Premiership, FA Cup, Bell's Scottish League premier division and Tennents Scottish Cup from Saturday August 17 onwards. Every goal they score or concede counts towards your total. The team with the most points at the end of the season will win the £50,000 first prize. You may enter as many teams as you like.

HOW TO ENTER BY POST

Fill in the entry form on the ball, right (photocopies are not acceptable) and send it with a cheque or postal order for £2 payable to *The Times Interactive Team Football* to Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton, Bedfordshire LU1 1ZZ. The entry fee for registrations outside the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland is £5, which may only be made by post. Once your postal entry has been received you will receive a letter of confirmation and notification of your Personal Identification Number (PIN) and team. Your team will only start scoring points once it has been registered. Points scored by players before your registration is complete do not count. The sooner you enter the sooner your team starts scoring.

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS

All 1996-97 matches in the FA Carling Premiership, FA Cup, Bell's Scottish League premier division and Tennents Scottish Cup count for points. Penalty shootouts do not count but results decided in this way will count for managers.

POINTS SCORED		POINTS DEDUCTED	
Goalkeeper		Goalkeeper	
Keeps clean sheet	4pts	Concedes goal	2pts
Scores goal	3pts	Full backs/Central defender	
Saves penalty	1pt	Concedes goal	1pt
Full backs/Central defender		Manager	
Keeps clean sheet	3pts	Team wins	3pts
Scores goal	3pts	Team draws	1pt
Midfield player		Team loses	1pt
Keeps clean sheet	1pt		
Scores goal	2pts		

EXAMPLE

Your midfielder scores three goals (3 x 2pts plus 6pt bonus = 12pts), is booked (minus 1pt), misses a penalty (minus 1pt) and plays throughout (1pt) in a 3-0 win (clean sheet = 1pt). He has scored 12 points in that match.

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER

ITF has a transfer system which allows you to buy and sell players and managers during the season. This means you can adjust your team to suit the current form of the players and managers. To make a transfer, you must have a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone. You must dial 0891 405 011 (from the Republic of Ireland you must dial 004 4990 100 320). Then follow the simple step-by-step instructions. Listen carefully and take your time. The recorded message will ask you to tap in (first speak) the full set of selections (using the five-digit player codes) for each of your chosen players and your manager in the following order: the goalkeeper, the two full backs, the two central defenders, the four midfield players, the two strikers and the manager. You will then be asked to give the name of your team (no more than 16 characters) and to record your name, address (with postcode) and daytime telephone number. Finally, you will be given a ten-digit Personal Identification Number (PIN). Please be patient. You have plenty of time to make your entry. Use *The Times Interactive Team Football* form, right, to record your selections and your PIN. Calls cost 39p per minute (including 49p per minute at other times). Each call will last about eight minutes. Each player you enter will be confirmed on the telephone after you have completed each selection. You will be notified of your PIN at the end of the call. No postal notification will be sent.

ENTER ON SKY TV. PRESS SKY SPORTS TEXT. PAGE 505

To enter by phone call
0891 405 011

Calls cost 39p per min (including 49p per min at other times). Calls should last approximately 8 mins. Entrants from Rep of Ireland only call 004 4990 100 320

TEAM NAME (up to 16 characters)

Goalkeeper

Full back

Central defender

Midfielder

Midfielder

Strikers

Strikers

Manager

Name

Address

Postcode

Daytime telephone no

Send your entries (with £2 entry fee) entrants outside the UK or Rep of Ireland (£5 sterling) to: *The Times Interactive Team Football*, Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton, Bedfordshire LU1 1ZZ

Which age group are you? (TICK BOX)

(1) 15-24 (2) 25-34 (3) 35-44 (4) 45-54 (5) 55-64 (6) 65+

Which daily newspaper(s) do you buy?

(a) regularly (b) occasionally

If you do not wish to receive other offers from *The Times*, please tick this box

0891 405 011

Study the list of players and managers, assess their ITF values and pick a team to beat the best

GOALKEEPERS

Table of Goalkeepers with columns for Code, Name, Team, and Price (£m). Lists players like Michael Watt, David Seaman, and Steve Harper with their respective values.

FULL BACKS

Table of Full Backs with columns for Code, Name, Team, and Price (£m). Lists players like Stewart McKimmie, Lee Dixon, and Nigel Winterburn.



David Ginola, Newcastle's French winger, possesses plenty of trickery. But can he do the trick for you in ITF?

CENTRAL DEFENDERS

Table of Central Defenders with columns for Code, Name, Team, and Price (£m). Lists players like Brian Irvine, Colin Woodthorpe, and Tony Adams.

MIDFIELDERS

Table of Midfielders with columns for Code, Name, Team, and Price (£m). Lists players like Dean Windass, Stephen Glass, and Paul Bernard.

MIDFIELDERS

Table of Midfielders with columns for Code, Name, Team, and Price (£m). Lists players like Michael Gray, Steve Agnew, and Alex Rae.

STRIKERS

Table of Strikers with columns for Code, Name, Team, and Price (£m). Lists players like Scott Booth, Duncan Shearer, and Ian Wright.

MANAGERS

Table of Managers with columns for Code, Name, Team, and Price (£m). Lists managers like Roy Aitken, Roy Little, and Ray Harford.

Sally Jones discovers triathlon — throbbing thighs, the 'coffin' crawl and head-first dismounts from a bicycle

Why 8,000 women can't be wrong

My first sight of triathlon was both revolting and disturbing. Idly flicking through the television channels in 1982, I watched appalled as a slight young woman called Julie Moss, obviously in the final stages of exhaustion, crawled almost unconsciously the last few paces of a marathon, having already completed a 2½-mile swim and a 112-mile bike ride non-stop in blazing sunshine.

Within a few heartbreaking yards of the winning post, her nearest rival overtook her to claim the Women's Hawaii Ironman Championship while Moss inched across the line 29 seconds later, her implacable will to win etched on her haggard, salt-caked face.

What sort of freaks and



Rachel Horn, the British triathlon champion, says of her sport: "What I like is the way you see yourself improve against other people and the friendship and encouragement you get, even from big rivals"

SPORT FOR ALL

masochists were these people who drove themselves beyond the limits of their endurance over such vast distances? Surely it was a purely American phenomenon? But no. Soon afterwards I met the British women's champion, Dr Sarah Springman, who was also a Cambridge engineering don, fitting her three hours' training each day around a 12-hour stint in the laboratory.

Despite a moderate background in swimming and running, as a former Oxford modern pentathlete, I mentally crossed triathlon off my list; at least until last month, when the new British champion, Rachel Horn, 27, from Cambridge, described how she had taken up triathlon only three years ago and was now training hard for next week's world championships in Cleveland, Ohio.

A former engineering undergraduate at Magdalene College, she was a county standard cross-country runner and club swimmer but entered her first triathlon in 1993 only after encouragement from Dr Springman, her supervisor. Horn began a heavy training programme that within a year took her to fifth place in the

British championships. This year she took the British title, despite having to fit up to 3½ hours' training a day around the 12-hour shifts she works getting on-site experience at the Hackney-M11 link road.

"Come and do a training session with me," she urged. "What do you mean, not fit enough? When I first started I was running just two miles a week and I'd scarcely sat on a bike." It was nevertheless with some trepidation that I clambered aboard Rachel's second-string racing bike. Triathletes specialise in looking as much like sci-fi insect-alien as possible and talk knowledgeably of their pulse rates and body fat percentages, both usually in single figures.

Bottom higher than head, I pedalled wearily in Rachel's slipstream for three miles to the school pool in Impington, where she trains with the

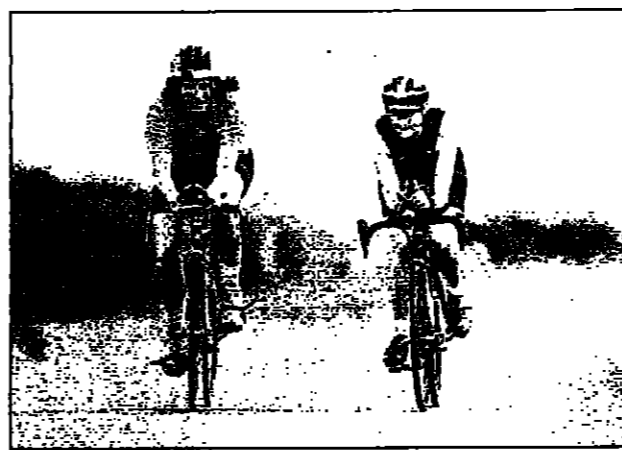
Cambridge Triathlon Club. While she donned goggles and began her rapid, metronomic crawl up and down the fast lane of the 50-metre pool, I followed more sedately in the wake of Don Hutchinson, a trim, humorous man training for the 50-54 age group of the world championships.

After 32 lengths of so-called "steady pace" and "full pressure" crawl (my own version of the "very slow" and "slow"), I was gasping and rolling in the water or snatching a few crafty strokes of backstroke to get my breath back. "Swim as though you are in a coffin," Don said, "make yourself as long and straight as you can."

I essayed another 32 lengths, some arms only and some in my newly discovered "coffin crawl", feeling towards the end as though the metaphor might be too close for

comfort. As I panted hard, summoning the energy to get out of the pool, Rachel described the mad dash from open water swim to cycle race in the heat of competition; competitors pulling off their wet suits en route to the transition area where each triathlete's bike and cycling gear is waiting in its allotted space. To cut changeover times to a minimum, top competitors even do regular "transition practices".

Next came our cycle session, accompanied by Rob Staples, a star fell-runner, and Gary Speechley, a former road-racing cyclist. My elbows resting on the "tri-bars", designed to give the cyclist the most aerodynamic position, I almost dismounted head-first, then pedalled furiously to try to keep up with my companions' "medium pace". Twelve miles later came a



Sci-fi insect-alien: the author (left) and Rachel Horn

stretching and warm-up session. We practised a series of running drills — "high knees", a prancing action with your thighs parallel to the ground; "fast feet", flicking your feet back to hit your bottom at each

pace. Triathletes soon learn to ignore the ignorant mockery of passers-by, but I felt a right berk.

Most of Horn's training consists of repetitions of runs from 400 to 1,500 metres,

interspersed with several ten-mile runs each week to build up strength and endurance. "I began with a very low mileage," she said, "and only built it up gradually. I started cycle training with my old touring bike and didn't even take the bell off before my first competition. What I like about triathlon is the way you see yourself improve against other people — and the incredible friendship and encouragement you get, even from big rivals."

After a few minutes rest, I attempted a short but agonising run, my thighs still throbbing after the morning's exertions and finally limped home at a pace akin to Peter Rabbit's "lippy, lippy, not very fast". My next step? Train for a couple of hours each week, enter the shortest novice triathlon I can find and, literally, take the plunge.

HOW TO START

TRIATHLON started in the early 1970s after a fitness freak from San Diego, appropriately named David Pain, staged the David Pain birthday triathlon: a six-mile run followed by a half-mile swim.

In 1974 the first triathlon was held and included five miles of running and cycling, interspersed with two quarter-mile swims; chickenfeed compared to the formidable Hawaii Ironman — a 2½-mile swim in open water, a 112-mile cycle race and a marathon. Television coverage of Julie Moss's ordeal, amazingly inspired 50 per cent more triathletes to compete in the event the following year.

Britain is one of the top triathlon nations with about 50,000 people, including 8,000 women, competing regularly in a variety of events with age groups ranging from eight to 80 plus. The oldest regular competitor is 81-year-old Patrick Barnes. The male world champion for the past four years has been British: Simon Lessing in 1992 and 1995, Spencer Smith in 1993 and 1994. Both are expected to be among the contenders for a gold medal when triathlon becomes a full Olympic sport at Sydney in 2000.

Equipment: most of the basic kit is relatively cheap or can be bought secondhand. The swimming requires goggles (£5) and a costume or Lycra two-piece (about £25) which for open water races is worn over a wetsuit (£100 second-hand or £200 plus new). For the cycling, the main expense is a racing bike: these can range from £250 to £2,000 plus while the helmet and cycling shoes, which clip directly to the pedals, are each about £30. Some triathletes cycle in padded shorts (£20) but many opt to compete in swimming costume or two-piece throughout the bike and run to save time at transitions. Most newcomers start off with basic trainers (about £50) for the run, graduating to more specialised running shoes as they gain experience.

How to start: Most of Britain's 230 clubs run training days to teach potential competitors how to prepare for their first race. Each course is linked to a short novice event. The accent is more on fitness and enjoyment than competition.

The British Triathlon Association, Box 26, Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire, LE65 2ZR (01530 414234).

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT
At first sight you might think this was one of those hands where you play to keep the danger hand out of the lead, but South saw more deeply into the position.

Dealer South	Game all	Rubber bridge
AK84	AK84	
752	752	
Q83	Q83	
44	44	
109	N	QJ53
VAQJ109	W	643
952	E	76
K107	S	9852
		782
		VK5
		AJ104
		AQ63

Contract: 3NT by South. Lead: ten of spades

As he held a likely entry in the king of clubs, West might reasonably have chanced giving up a trick in hearts but he was afraid that this might give declarer his ninth trick so he started passively with the ten of spades.

South could see seven tricks on top and at least one more could be established in clubs. As he could not afford to lose the lead to East (because of the danger of a damaging heart return) it seemed natural to lead clubs from dummy, but that offered little prospect of more than eight tricks.

South decided to hope that the club finesse was wrong. He won with the king of spades, came to hand with a diamond, and led a low club towards the jack.

When this held (if West had taken his king, declarer would have had three tricks in the suit), he was more or less home. He cashed a second spade and the remaining diamonds, then followed with the ace of clubs.

The best that poor West could do was unblock by throwing his king under the ace — otherwise he is thrown in with a third club and forced to concede a heart trick as well. At least in this way he was able to restrict South to nine tricks.

Robert Sheehan writes on Bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Ward wins
When this year's British Championship at Nottingham opened, the firm favourite was grandmaster, Matthew Sadler, from Chatham in Kent. Apart from being the defending champion, Sadler had notched up a series of first prizes in international tournaments and significantly improved his rating. However, in the championship itself, Sadler came unstuck in the following game against Chris Ward, who employed the sharp Benoni Defence. After much manoeuvring the game burst into life, but it was Ward, rather than the reigning champion, who saw his way more clearly through the tactics. This was a key victory for Ward on his way to winning this year's championship.

White: Matthew Sadler
Black: Chris Ward
British Championship, Nottingham, August 1996

Modern Benoni

1 d4	Nf6
2 c4	e6
3 Nf3	c5
4 d5	exd5
5 Nc3	e5
6 cxd5	g6
7 Nc2	Bg7
8 Nc4	O-O
9 g3	b6
10 h4	Ne8
11 Bg2	Nd7
12 O-O	Ba6
13 Na3	f5
14 Bd2	Ne5
15 Qc1	Nc7
16 Bf6	Bd5
17 Ra2	Rd8
18 Qd4	Nf5
19 Qc1	h4
20 Na6	N6
21 b3	R7
22 Ne4	Bxb5

By Raymond Keene
Black to play. This position is from the game Gelfand — Shirov, France 1996. Beginners are often told that the king is a strong piece and should be used actively in the endgame. However, despite the reduced material in endgame positions it is still necessary to be on the look-out for tactics and snap checkmates. What did Black spot here?

Solution on page 41

I became a regular at the repair shop

The insider's view of the wide-ranging triathlon training regime

To the casual observer, the triathlon might appear to be an event of three disciplines. That was certainly my impression. But for the athlete competing against the British climate there is a fourth event, sneaked in between swim and cycle: removing the wetsuit.

When, looking for an excuse to delay my next attempt at the marathon, I decided to try a triathlon, I opted for the Olympic distance: 1,500 metre swim, 40 kilometre bike ride and 10 kilometre run.

With four months to prepare, I decided to divide each week into parcels of activity, giving equal time to the three disciplines.

Finding a place to swim was easy: I belong to a gym with a pool and I even splashed out on a half-hour of coaching to improve my stroke. I made my only significant investment of the adventure: a wetsuit for £100. I decided to try it out in the pool and created a minor sensation as I ploughed up and down. Any advantage the tremendous buoyancy of the suit might have given me was lost as I struggled to peel it off.

Next, I ventured into open water. I live in London's Docklands but, with water, water everywhere, nobody would risk having me drown or contract Weil's disease on their particular stretch.

Eventually, I found myself on the shores of Willen Lake in Milton Keynes. It is a rule in triathlon that the feet and hands must not be covered, and so those extremities and my face lost feeling. An inefficient swimmer, I breathe only to the left, a failing punished on alternate legs of the lake, when the wind-driven waves — that had seemed so small from the shore — forced me to develop a new breathing technique, rolling my head and shoulders so my mouth almost faced the sky. I also found out what the lines on the bottom of pools are for: if I failed to raise my face every three strokes, I went wildly off course.

I have never liked cycling, or bikes. It seemed unwise to turn up at my first event boasting the latest machinery, so I borrowed a simple racing bike. Teaming up with a friend, I set out to ride the quiet and hilly byways of Hertfordshire. I soon discovered why real athletes spend so much money on their equipment. Bit by bit, as my fitness improved and the handlebar-mounted computer recorded ever faster speeds, bits began to snap, crack and pop.

I became a Monday-morning regular at the local bike-repair shop, bringing a smile to the face of the man in the Raleigh overalls as he replaced cranks, rims and spokes. "You've virtually rebuilt this thing," he said about a week before the big day.

The final eye-opener was the running. The first time I combined the cycling and the running I almost gave up. We'd cycled hard but I felt good until I leapt off the machine. Quite clearly I had left my legs behind and taken somebody else's — and my brain and their feet weren't on speaking terms.

On the big day my training partner and I wheeled our humble machines into the lakeside transition area, sought out our numbers and hung our mounts on the racks by their handlebars. Sneaking sideways glances we laid out our cycling and running kit on towels like the others had.

"That's a high gear to start out in," the hair-fine superman to my left said. "Did you

know your front tyre is flat?" "No aerobars, eh?" the guy on the right sighed as he slapped Vaseline all over his shoulders. So that was how they got out of their wetsuits so quickly.

We stumbled, shivering, into the water, floating at the start. The field strung out after a few minutes and before the first buoy came into sight I kept my bearings by following what appeared to be a shoal of large fish boiling the water.

Simply not prepared to cycle and run through the lanes of rural Northamptonshire in the standard kit of swimming trunks and cropped top, I lost seconds in transition struggling modestly into shorts, T-shirt and shoes. On the bike, I tried to remember the lessons of training: stay down on the drops as much as possible; don't coast except when the option is certain death; treat the brakes with disdain.

It was a hot day and on the two or three long straights on the tortuous course I tried to drink as much water as I could, cursing that I had failed to find a handlebar-mounted system and almost crashing each time I fumbled for my bottle. At one point, standing in the pedals and gasping up a long hill, I found new strength passing the hairless superman as he tried to kick to death his punctured £2,000 bike.

Discarding my faithful borrowed clunker, I set out, under what was now a midday sun, with competitors whose faces were set in a rictus by a bitter-sweet blend of pain and triumph as the end of the ordeal drew closer.

It was not the fastest ten kilometres I have run, but it was certainly a personal-best triathlon. Just turned 40, I came in eleventh out of 20 veterans in a time of 2hr 25min 09sec (swim 26min 03sec, bike 1hr 16min 39sec, run 42min 27sec). Overall, I was 66th out of 106, and the winner breezed home in 1hr 54min 08sec.

Jon Gornall

Jon Gornall

Jon Gornall

Jon Gornall

WORD-WATCHING
By Philip Howard

ASILUS	DATO
a. Having no head	a. An assignment
b. A fly	b. A fact
c. A Roman copper coin	c. A chieftain

GALJOEN
a. A fish
b. A Dutch measure
c. An itinerant harpist

Answers on page 41

WINNING MOVE
By Raymond Keene

Solution on page 41

Handwritten signature or note at the bottom of the page.

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table of stock prices and changes for various sectors including Alcoholic Beverages, Banks, Breweries, Pubs & Rest, Building & Construct, Building Materials, Chemicals, Diversified Industrials, Engineering, Engineering Vehicles, Food Manufacturers, Healthcare, Household Goods, Insurance, Investment Trusts, Leisure & Hotels, Mining, Oil & Gas, Other Financial, Pharmaceuticals, Printing & Paper, Property, Retailers Food, Retailers General, Textiles & Apparel, Transport, and Water.

Main table of stock prices and changes, organized by sector: Alcoholic Beverages, Banks, Breweries, Pubs & Rest, Building & Construct, Building Materials, Chemicals, Diversified Industrials, Engineering, Engineering Vehicles, Food Manufacturers, Healthcare, Household Goods, Insurance, Investment Trusts, Leisure & Hotels, Mining, Oil & Gas, Other Financial, Pharmaceuticals, Printing & Paper, Property, Retailers Food, Retailers General, Textiles & Apparel, Transport, and Water.

Table of stock prices and changes for various sectors including Alcoholic Beverages, Banks, Breweries, Pubs & Rest, Building & Construct, Building Materials, Chemicals, Diversified Industrials, Engineering, Engineering Vehicles, Food Manufacturers, Healthcare, Household Goods, Insurance, Investment Trusts, Leisure & Hotels, Mining, Oil & Gas, Other Financial, Pharmaceuticals, Printing & Paper, Property, Retailers Food, Retailers General, Textiles & Apparel, Transport, and Water.

Advertisement for 'first direct' featuring a watch and the text: 'In the time it takes to check a pulse I can check my balance.' Includes phone number 0800 24 24 24 and a logo.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, possibly a page number or a small advertisement.

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Alliance Trust, Argos, Hibernian Group, Jupiter International Green Investment Trust, Michael Page Group, Prospect Japan Fund, Taylor Nelson AGB Waco Group, Finais: Syndicate Capital Trust. Economic statistics: US Treasury auction of short-term T-bills, Bank of France money market tender, Bank of France discount T-bill auction, French BT auction.

TOMORROW

Interims: Cussins Property Group, Glenchewton, Grassby, Kerry Group, Orange, Perry Group. Finais: Armtrage Brothers, British Sky Broadcasting. Economic statistics: UK July M4 money supply, UK July M4 lending, UK BBA monthly statement — July, UK building societies monthly figures — July, Bank of England announces details of August 28 gill auction, FOMC meeting, US June trade balance, US Mitsubishi weekly store sales, US Johnson Redbook sales, US Treasury announces size of short-term T-bills, FOMC meeting, API weekly oil supply statistics, Bundesbank calls for repo bids.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Dunedin Income Growth, EV Facs, Marley, Mersey Docks & Harbour, Richardson, Westgarth, TR High Income Trust, Whatman. Finais: News Corporation. Economic statistics: UK July retail sales, US import/export price indices, US Treasury July budget report, US Kansas City Fed Survey, US July Budget statement, US Treasury announces size of two-year, five-year note auctions, Bundesbank awarding repos.

THURSDAY

Interims: Dawsongroup, Evans Halshaw, Goldsmiths Gp, Rentokil Gp. Finais: News International. Economic statistics: UK Q2 output, income and expenditure, Bundesbank Council meeting, US weekly jobless claims.

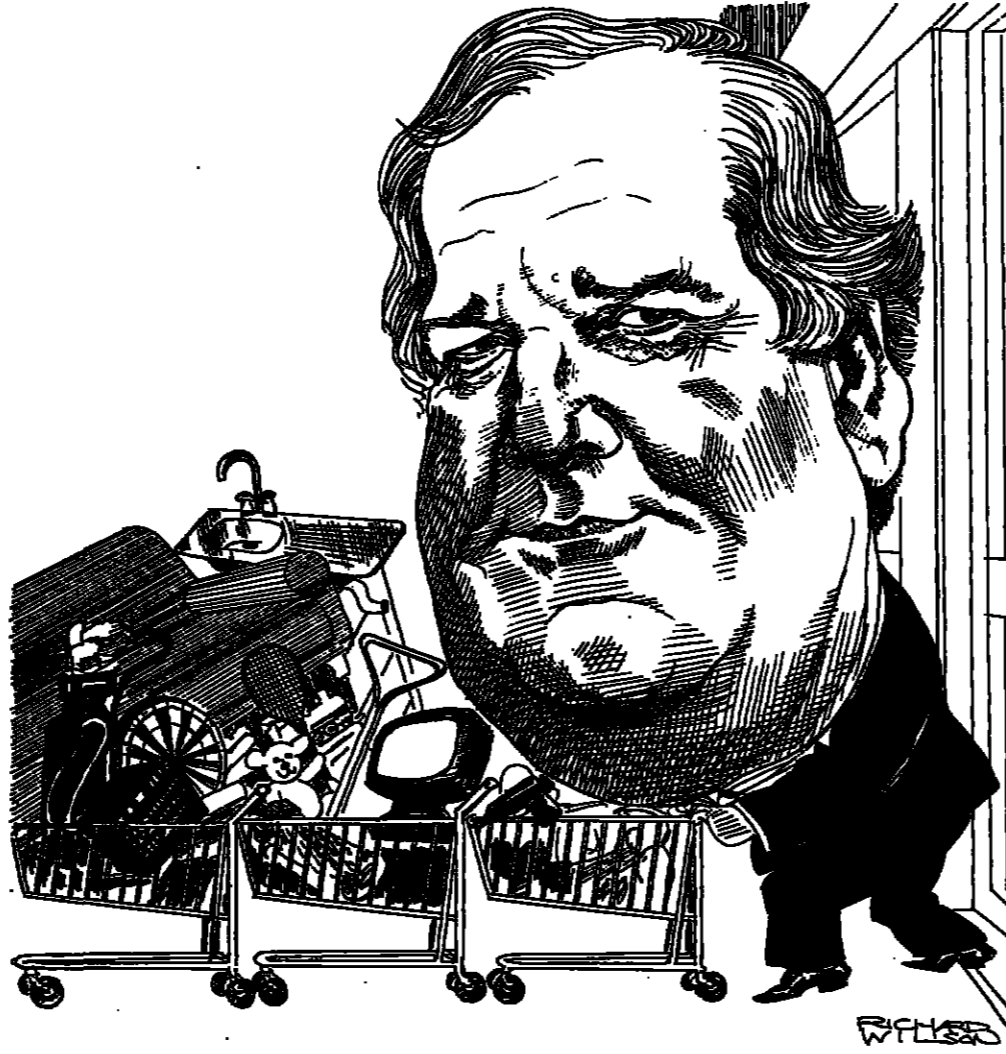
FRIDAY

Interims: Melloy, Monument Oil & Gas. Finais: none scheduled. Economic statistics: French July final consumer prices index, UK August CBI monthly trends, UK July motor vehicle production, UK Q2 provisional capital expenditure, Q2 provisional stocks, US July durable goods orders.

Charging up to the Christmas rush

ARGOS: The bank holiday may be looming, but it is the Christmas lights that are within twinkling distance for the catalogue retailer. First-half pre-tax profits out today are forecast in the range of £25 million to £28 million, compared with £21.8 million last year.

The City is expecting an upbeat report on sales and a rosy picture on consumer spending from Mike Smith, chief executive. At its annual meeting in May, Argos reported a 17 per cent sales rise in sales for the first four months of the year, with the like-for-like figures more than 9 per cent ahead.



Stocking up good results: Argos's Mike Smith will deliver more for investors

The second half matters more. A strong run topped off with a good Christmas could boost full-year profits by a quarter to about £143 million. An interim net dividend of 5p is likely, up from 4.3p last time.

ORANGE: Investors in the mobile phone group will be looking for good news on subscriber levels when it reports tomorrow. These will be its first interim figures since coming to the market. Losses at the half year are expected to come in at about £130 million, but more encouraging news on the number of people signing up to the network could help bolster the share price.

The shares have fallen back from a 205p flotation price in March to about 185p. Analysts are looking for new subscribers in 1996 to total 400,000, with about half that number signing up in the first six months.

There was no interim figure reported last year, but the full-year loss was £175 million pre-tax. No dividend is expected at this half year as the group continues to develop its network.

BSKYB: Renegotiation of the Premiership football contract and a move into the European pay-TV market has kept shares in BSKYB, the satellite broadcaster, bubbling.

More positive news is expected by the City when the group reports year-end figures tomorrow. Pre-tax profits for the year to June are expected by analysts to

leap ahead to £255 million, a rise of 36 per cent, on turnover 28 per cent ahead to almost £1 billion. Analysts also predict a strong dividend increase, from 2.5p to 6p, from BSKYB, where News International, publisher of *The Times*, has a 40 per cent stake.

MERSEY DOCKS AND HARBOUR COMPANY: The continuing labour dispute at Mersey Docks will again be in the spotlight when the company announces its interim figures on Wednesday. The return of ACL

the container group, to Liverpool in July, a month after its original decision to switch to Thamesport, helped Mersey shares to recover some lost ground. But after nearly a year, the dockers' dispute continues to have an impact on the port's growth. Pre-tax profits of £18 million, up from £16.8 million last year are expected, with the dividend raised by 10 per cent to 4p.

MARLEY: The building materials group reports half-year figures on Wednesday. Analysts are expecting pre-tax profits to slip below last year's £24 million to £20 million and £23 million, with the dividend unchanged at 2.1p.

Challenging conditions in the UK building industry are making life difficult for Marley although there may be more positive news from the US.

The results come after Marley disposed of its automotive components businesses. This netted about £81 million, allowing the group to cut gearing and provide some cash for small acquisitions.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Focus on US and Germany

The spotlight this week will be beyond British shores, with key meetings scheduled for both the US Federal Reserve and the Bundesbank to discuss interest rates.

The financial markets believe that the Federal Open Market Committee, which meets on Tuesday and Wednesday, will leave US rates unchanged. Some signs of slowing economic momentum in the third quarter and more evidence of subdued inflationary pressures convinces most analysts that the Fed will stay its hand.

There is much more uncertainty about the prospect for German rates when the Bundesbank's policy-making council meets on Thursday. A number of senior Bundesbank officials hinted last week that they were concerned about the sustainability of economic recovery in Germany, that the strong mark was not comfortable and that expectations of a further drop in M3 money supply might leave the way open for a cut in the key money-market repurchase rate.

Both M3 figures and a July business sentiment survey from the Ifo economic institute are due to be published this week, most likely before the Bundesbank meeting. A Reuter poll of forecasts shows an average forecast for July M3 of 8.8 per cent annualised growth, down from 9.6 per cent in June. The Ifo survey is expected to show a small improvement in sentiment.

In Britain, the focus is likely to be July retail sales on Wednesday. According to a consensus of market forecasts by MMS International, sales are expected to have grown by 0.4 per cent after jumping by 1.3 per cent in June. Other figures include the release tomorrow of July figures for M4 money supply, and bank and building society lending. On Thursday, the Confederation of British Industry releases its monthly trends survey, coinciding with revised figures for second quarter gross domestic product. The quarter's growth is expected to be unrevised at 0.4 per cent.

JANET BUSH

The Sunday Times: Bay Bank Organisation, UniChem, Stanley Leisure, Hold Moorfield, British Data Management. The Sunday Telegraph: Bay Argos, British Aerospace, Wiggins Group, Salefield, Pace Micro Technology. The Observer: Bay BAT Industries, General Accident. The Independent on Sunday: Bay BAT Industries, Manganeze Bronze, Thorn EMI. The Mail on Sunday: Bay Logica, Waste Recycling, Independent Radio Group, Satire, Glaxo Wellcome.

Chairman may go as Hill Samuel integrates

By Jon Ashworth

MORE redundancies are expected at Hill Samuel, the merchant banking arm of Lloyds TSB, which is being integrated into the bank's mainstream operations.

John Sclater, chairman, and John Macgregor, deputy chairman, are among about 150 employees expected to go. A further 400 staff are likely to lose their jobs by the year-end. Hill Samuel's asset manage-

Investors await first valuation details on Hanson demerger

By Clare Stewart

HANSON, the favourite conglomerate of yesterday, will present a sceptical investment community with details of the first half of its long-awaited demerger this week.

Listing details on Millennium Chemicals and Imperial Tobacco are expected on Friday, to launch flotations due to take place on October 1.

Since announcing its plans at the start of the year to split four ways into chemicals, tobacco, energy and building materials, the drip feed of data from Hanson has built up the corporate picture on each division.

This week's information sent out to shareholders will, however, bring the picture into sharper focus, with details on the expected market value and on the cost of the demerger exercise, which could be up to £100 million.

Last week third-quarter figures showed a bigger than expected fall in profits from Hanson's US chemicals business.

These prompted analysts to re-jig their forecasts ahead of the demerger. Nigel Utley, at Greig Middleton, has cut his valuation for Millennium Chemicals to about £1.85 billion while expecting profits of £300 million this year.

Investor interest in the group will focus on the impact of higher prices being achieved at Quantum Chemical, which makes specialty polymer chemicals, as well as on recovery at SCM, which makes titanium dioxide.

Millennium will have a US listing, which is likely to limit its practical appeal to UK investors.

The chemicals group comes with about £1.3 billion of debt. It also has, in effect, an electric fence around it to keep opportunistic predators at bay during the demerger process, though not necessarily at a later date. "It is purely to prevent someone buying the company on the cheap," Christopher Collins, deputy chairman of Hanson, said.

Greater interest from UK investors is expected for Imperial Tobacco, which will be quoted in London. A valuation of about £2.8 billion is expected for the group which owns top-selling cigarette brands such as Superkings, Embassy and Lambert & Butler, and has about 38 per cent of the UK market. Imperial's share of the Hanson debt is £1.05 billion.

With no sales into the US, the group is exposed to fewer tobacco litigation risks. Investors will also be attracted by the promise of an attractive yield, strong cashflow and the possibility of a bid for the business in the future.

After Millennium and Imperial have flown the Hanson nest, the energy division comprising Eastern Electricity and the Peabody mining business will be preparing itself for takeoff in early 1997.



Best foot forward: John David Sports, the JD leisurewear retailer, is to seek a full Stock Exchange listing in the autumn that could value it at more than £70 million. Named after John Wardle, chairman, left, and David Makin, chief executive, it has grown from one sports shop, opened in Bury, Lancashire, in 1981, to a chain of 57. Success came by switching from sports goods to fashion footwear. In the year to March 31, pre-tax profits rose from £4.4 million to £6.7 million on sales up from £37 million to £56 million. BZW is adviser.

BSkyB steps up drive for BBC link

By Eric Reguly

BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster, is doubling its efforts to form a pay-TV joint venture with the BBC after sensing that Flextech, the cable and satellite programmer, may have taken the lead in the talks.

Media analysts believe that BSKYB, 40 per cent owned by News International, publisher of *The Times*, has emphasised that it can guarantee the BBC the broadest audience. BSKYB, the country's only direct-to-home broadcaster, has 5.5 million subscribers and plans to launch as many as 200 digital channels by the end of 1997. Moreover, BSKYB could predict what revenue the BBC could receive from the new channels with the "perce-per-subscriber" formula.

Flextech, satellite TV experts said, would have trouble giving such assurances because of its "middleman" status. Flextech can finance development of the channels and package them, but would have to negotiate with BSKYB to get them on BSKYB's multichannel packages. Otherwise, Flextech would have to lease its own satellite transponder space.

Flextech, having negotiated with BBC Worldwide, the BBC's commercial arm, hopes to strike a deal in the next three months. The BBC's new satellite channels would be devoted to sports and drama.

Flextech seems to have two advantages, observers say. Firstly, Telecommunications Inc. its big owner and America's biggest cable company, with about 15 million subscribers, could provide US coverage for some of the new BBC channels. Flextech, observers said, may also be more "politically acceptable" because it does not have as big a share of the media market as BSKYB and News International.

FREE PHYSICS LESSON

The Times Educational Supplement is publishing special vouchers every week until August 30. Each voucher entitles a child to free admission to a leading British attraction, provided they are accompanied by a paying adult.

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THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

Attractions in being overweight

The global village has arrived. A simple statistical model shows that ten-year UK gilt-edged yields are strongly influenced by two key factors — UK short rates and world bond yields — and that they are twice as sensitive to world yields as to UK short rates. Since the opportunity for further UK rate cuts is all but over and, absent some crisis, Kenneth Clarke is not about to raise them, world markets will drive gilts for the rest of the year.

The good news is that the outlook for the world's largest market has turned positive. Already there are signs that US growth is moderating after a strong first half, and there is little to stimulate the economy. Real short rates are only half a percentage point below last year's average; the structural budget deficit has declined by 0.5 per cent of GDP in two years; the dollar has gained some 9 per cent in real terms over the past 15 months; and real oil prices rose by nearly 30 per cent between July 1995 and July 1996. Real GDP growth could slow from 2.6 per cent year on year in the second quarter of 1996 to say 1½ per cent by mid-1997.

Real yields in the US are closely linked with real growth. Although inflation may edge up, in spite of slower growth, the balance of forces suggest lower US bond yields ahead. The prospects are not so rosy for bunds. Growth should continue to pick up, and there is limited scope for lower German inflation and short rates. However, where Treasuries lead, bunds should follow, albeit unenthusiastically. The bad news is that the gilt-edged market tends to follow bunds more closely than US Treasuries. Over the past three years the correlation has been 77 per cent with bunds and 56 per cent with Treasuries. Thus, world yields may move lower, dragging gilt yields with them.

However, bunds will probably underperform Treasuries and gilts underperform bunds. So far so bad. But, relative to the rest of Europe gilts should be one of the better performers. There are three reasons.

First come budget concerns related to European monetary union. European growth, though picking up, remains sluggish and is incompatible with the fiscal tightening necessary to meet the 1997 deficit goals of most European countries. Each of the big four European markets is in for a difficult budget ride. In Germany, local governments have cautioned that they are on the brink of financial collapse; France, trying to push through further expenditure cuts, is swimming against an undercurrent of social tension; Italy's coalition Government is straining under the weight of continued austerity and deteriorating growth prospects; and in Spain the discovery of a 721 billion peseta hole in government finances has set back the Government's assault on the deficit.

As we move further into the Budget season, these tensions will mount. Uncertainty surrounding the euro will grow and its credibility will come under renewed scrutiny. In such an environment, safe haven considerations will support bunds, but gilts should also benefit as investors diversify into calmer UK waters.

Second come currency considerations. In the past year a weakening mark has supported European convergence. But, as the US economy slows and German growth comes on stream, changing interest rate expectations are likely to push the mark higher. This will drive a further wedge between German and other continental yields. Having missed the convergence train in the first half of the year, gilts are well placed to benefit from any setback. Finally, gilts are cheap on standard valuations. In the year to date, the local currency return on gilts has been a meagre 2.6 per cent, making them the worst-performing European market in the JP Morgan global bond index. Further underperformance is only likely to add to gilts' relative attractiveness. Real yields, in stark contrast to most other European markets, are also above their average of the past ten years, on such valuations. Italian and French bonds look particularly stretched. And the correlation between short-term and long-term interest rates since 1987, over a full business cycle, suggests that gilts are better value than most European alternatives.

The performance of gilts may not match that of US Treasuries or German bunds in the second half of the year. But compared with most other European markets, gilts should do well. To maximise returns while spreading risk, there is still a good case for overweighting portfolios towards gilts in the months ahead.

GILT-EDGED

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RADIO CHOICE

No happiness on this isle

The Monday Play: Iona Rain. Radio 4. 7.45pm. Peter Moffat's bleak play is set on what an ancient rhyme calls "St. Columba's happy isle".

BBC Proms 1996. Radio 3. 1.00pm and 7.30pm. Some Prom performances you can never forget. There was one last year - the Oslo Philharmonic under Mariss Jansons playing Sibelius's Second Symphony.

RADIO 1
FM Stereo 6.30am Dave Pearce 9.00
Simon Mayo 11.30am Radio 1 Floodshow.

WORLD SERVICE
All times in BST. News on the hour.
5.30am Europe Today 6.30 Europe

RADIO 2
FM Stereo 6.00 Sarah Kennedy 7.30
Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce

CLASSIC FM
4.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00 Mike Reid
9.00 Nic Barley 12.00 Susannah

TALK RADIO
6.30am Paul Ross 10.00 Scott Chisholm

VIRGIN RADIO
6.00am Russ 'n' Juno 6.00 Richard Skinner

RADIO 3
6.00am On Air. Includes Rimsley-Korsakov

RADIO 4
5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10

RADIO 5 LIVE
5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 8.25 The Magic 12

RADIO 6
6.00am On Air. Includes Rimsley-Korsakov (Sheherazade); Fiza (Elohu); Dvorák (Overturn My Homeland); Mendelssohn (String Symphony No 6)

RADIO 7
6.00am On Air. Includes Rimsley-Korsakov (Sheherazade); Fiza (Elohu); Dvorák (Overturn My Homeland); Mendelssohn (String Symphony No 6)

RADIO 8
6.00am On Air. Includes Rimsley-Korsakov (Sheherazade); Fiza (Elohu); Dvorák (Overturn My Homeland); Mendelssohn (String Symphony No 6)

RADIO 9
6.00am On Air. Includes Rimsley-Korsakov (Sheherazade); Fiza (Elohu); Dvorák (Overturn My Homeland); Mendelssohn (String Symphony No 6)

RADIO 10
6.00am On Air. Includes Rimsley-Korsakov (Sheherazade); Fiza (Elohu); Dvorák (Overturn My Homeland); Mendelssohn (String Symphony No 6)

FREQUENCY GUIDE
RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6. LW 198. MW 124.5-5.55am.

This costly tax abuse has become too gross



GRAHAM SEALJEANT

Will it take a change of government to end the growing scandal of share buybacks? So far this year, according to figures monitored by Kleinwort Benson, quoted companies have cut their equity capital by almost £3 billion by buying shares selectively in the market.

In principle, it is a healthy trend for mature companies with cash to spare and insufficient good investment opportunities in their own business to hand the surplus back to their shareholders rather than wasting it by diversifying into trades they know nothing about.

if they want to raise more capital to reinvest. This argument has doubtless been used to pull the wool over the eyes of naive Treasury ministers too lazy to read beyond their political advisers' juvenile briefings.

Most schemes are smart financial engineering driven by tax calculations. Many companies want more capital, but borrow it instead, claiming the interest against tax. Most buybacks are forced on companies by big fund managers, which use the threat of takeovers to boost their own short-term performance in a cut-throat market.

not stand a chance. Buybacks are in all shareholders' interest, normally, it is argued, because tax savings raise earnings per share for all. But the lucky funds get the big benefits, sometimes along with directors whose bonuses are geared to total returns.

This is unfair to taxpayers. It is also unfair to other shareholders. Smaller charities and self-administered pension funds are beginning to complain that they are being left out, unless they use the big fund managers. Most private shareholders do

stand a chance. Buybacks are in all shareholders' interest, normally, it is argued, because tax savings raise earnings per share for all. But the lucky funds get the big benefits, sometimes along with directors whose bonuses are geared to total returns.

With careful drafting it should be easy to stop taxpayers funding the worst abuses of buybacks and the use of special dividends in takeover bids. For all but small companies, there could be a simple rule that tax cannot be reclaimed on a distribution that is, in form or substance, a consideration for shares.

revenues in a hidden way by taxing away all of the pension funds' immunity from tax on dividends.

This is not as far-fetched as it seems, even when Labour is keen to promote private pensions. Remember, for instance, how financially insignificant pay peccadillos of some utility bosses have been used by Labour to mount an indiscriminate attack on utility shareholders.

Departmental colleagues who find their popular spending priorities axed by the Treasury should ask the Chief Secretary why taxpayers are unwittingly paying out these vast subsidies when dying pensioners are being kicked out of hospitals.

With careful drafting it should be easy to stop taxpayers funding the worst abuses of buybacks and the use of special dividends in takeover bids.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Sounds of silence

CULTURAL change has beset the British Bankers' Association since its move to new high-tech offices in Old Broad Street from the genteel wood-panelled surroundings of Lombard Street.

Write on

THORN EMI shareholders who attended Friday's EGM on the demerger received two gifts from EMI, a classy CD of duets and arias sung by opera superstars Roberto Alagna and Angela Gheorghiu.

German kiss

A LANGUAGE barrier has been scaled neatly by Arcona, the UK developer, inviting the head of Despa Funds, one of Germany's largest pension funds and owner of the Lloyd's building, for a "topping out" ceremony of Arcona's new 60,000 sq ft head-quarters in Times Place this September.

MORAG PRESTON



The Aboriginal community is to have A\$400 million taken from its budget over the next four years under the Government's package of spending cuts

Budget pain down under

Australia is bracing itself for a rather rude awakening tomorrow when its new coalition Government unveils a painful A\$8 billion (£4 billion) package of spending cuts in an attempt to haul the country's budget back into surplus inside two years.

Australia's coalition Government is poised to swing the axe tomorrow, ushering in a period of fiscal restraint, says Rachel Bridge

For the past five months the expenditure review committee has been scouring the economy for any signs of excessive spending and the long-awaited Budget will be the first real indication of where its priorities lie.

Other than that though, economists admit that they remain largely in the dark as to where else the axe will fall. Stephen Roberts, chief economist with UBS Australia, says: "The remarkable part about this Budget, which has had one of the longest gestation periods of any budget ever, is that we're still none the wiser as to what's really in it."

pointed that the Government has taken tax off the agenda. It means that they are fighting the battle of fiscal tightening with one arm tied behind their back. It was a silly move because it is implicitly acknowledging that the current tax system is all correct, and clearly it is not.

Of just as great concern as what the Budget unveils is the question of whether the Government will be able to get its tough messages through the Senate, the upper house of Parliament, in which it does not have a majority.



Australians will soon learn what the future holds under the coalition

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BUYBACK BILL 42
Graham Searjeant
on the cost
to taxpayers

BUSINESS

MONDAY AUGUST 19 1996

DOWN UNDER 42
Australians face
a period of
belt-tightening



BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

Fall fr

Pay awards point to fall in inflation

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

AN UNEXPECTED slowdown in pay awards has given a powerful boost to the Government's anti-inflation policies. Pay awards in manufacturing fell back to an average of only 3.2 per cent in the three months ending in July, from 3.5 per cent in the previous three months to end April, according to figures from the Confederation of British Industry's databank. The CBI figures, which are regarded as a good guide to trends, also show that pay awards were down on the 3.3

per cent average for the same three months in 1995. In the fifth year of economic expansion, the labour market is therefore contributing to stable prices rather than stoking up inflation. But a second survey today suggests that industry could face a winter of pay strikes. Economists will draw heart from the solid concentration of pay deals. In the year to end July, three quarters of manufacturing awards were between 2.5 and 4.5 per cent, with most in the lower half. Four manufacturers in ten

had held back by their inability to pass on cost increases. One in four said that low inflation was also helping them to keep pay in check, helping to complete a virtuous circle of falling inflation. Pay accelerated slightly in service industry deals in the latest three months, averaging 3.6 per cent, up from 3.5 per cent in the three months to April, but down from 3.7 per cent in the same period a year ago. Two thirds of service industry awards struck in the past 12 months were also between 2.5 and 4.5 per cent. However, the fourth annual industrial relations survey from DIBB Lupton Broomhead, the employment lawyer, suggests that frustration among employees at pay restraint could break out into strike action just as after-tax pay starts to rise in real terms. Britain is facing its worst "winter of discontent" in industrial relations for many years, the lawyers claim. Nearly a third of companies surveyed expect industrial action over the next year, and more than two thirds of unions predict an increase in action. David Bradley, co-author of the DIBB Lupton survey, said increased industrial action could be linked with an economic upturn. "People are becoming a bit more confident about their positions and are more willing to take action." The survey, of 130 companies, 50 public-sector employers and 50 unions, also found that unions were prepared to take strike action earlier in a dispute but rarely had to do so. The proportion of workers joining company pension schemes has been eroded by "steady attrition" to 87 per cent since the Government made membership voluntary in 1988, a survey by Incomes Data Services suggests. In some firms, 100 per cent of eligible employees join schemes. In others, take-up has fallen to 30 per cent as newcomers try to minimise deductions from low pay in jobs they regard as insecure.



Aiming to win: a racehorse is led past Christo Phillipson, left, and Peter Bickmore, heads of British Bloodstock, which is seeking a listing AIM, page 41

Charities seek buyback equality

By OLIVER AUGUST

A CAMPAIGN to stop charities being disadvantaged by the current spate of share buybacks is gathering momentum. Charitable fund trustees want the Stock Exchange to change the rules to stop large institutional investors being given opportunities to profit from buybacks when others are excluded. Several MPs have written to the Treasury, asking it to intervene. Alan Diamond, a stockbroker who has led the lobbying for a change of rules, said: "When a major plc decides to launch a rapid buyback of its company's shares for cancellation, to enhance future earnings per share, the immediate effect is an enormous disadvantage to smaller gross funds which hold that particular company's equity." Recent examples of rapid buybacks include Boots, NatWest and Barclays. The problem arises because most companies who buy back shares do not make formal tender offers to all registered shareholders. Instead, they instruct their corporate brokers to approach institutional fund managers. Smaller gross funds such as charities or self-administered pension funds are excluded because they cannot react as quickly as large institutions. Selling shares back is very lucrative because funds can claim a 20 per cent advance corporation tax refund on the shares sold. The Stock Exchange has responded to a letter from Mr Diamond by saying that "no change in Listing Rules is required". Gross fund trustees would like to see a short suspension of a company's shares to coincide with an official buyback announcement. Graham Searjeant, page 42

Final US hurdle for Lloyd's

By JON ASHWORTH

RON SANDLER, chief executive of Lloyd's of London, is due in an American court today, at the opening of a case that poses the last big obstacle to the market's recovery plans. About 100 American names have launched an action in Richmond, Virginia, seeking an injunction on the Lloyd's reconstruction and renewal (R&R) scheme. Lloyd's could be forced to rush in contingency plans if the action is upheld. The move comes as a new MORI poll suggests 85 per cent of UK names support R&R, up from 82 per cent previously. Only 4 per cent indicated they would not accept R&R, with its accompanying £3.2 billion litigation settlement offer. Names have until noon on Wednesday, August 28, in which to return their settlement offer acceptance forms. Mr Sandler has been called as a witness in the Virginia case, which turns on whether R&R is in violation of US securities laws. Judge Robert Payne, the district judge presiding over the case, had asked the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) for its opinion on the securities issue. The SEC voted on Friday to remain neutral, saying it "regrettably" could not get involved. Neither will it be drawn on whether Lloyd's membership constitutes a security. It had been argued that the case should be heard in America on the grounds that federal securities laws superseded contracts between Lloyd's and the American names. Lloyd's has moved to dismiss the case on the grounds that its contract requires US names to bring their case before an English court. The names are seeking an

injunction to stop Lloyd's from getting them to accept the plan until details of Equitas financing have been disclosed. They say they viewed Lloyd's investments as "securities", and US disclosure laws must apply. A victory in Virginia could deny R&R of \$280 million due from 2,700 US names, compelling Lloyd's to reconsider its options. The rescue scheme would either have to be put on hold, or rejigged to take account of the "missing" US funds. Lloyd's almost certainly has contingency plans in place. In the latest in a separate raft of US actions, a judge in Tennessee has denied a request for a broad temporary injunction seeking to block the making of settlement offers to Tennessee names. Instead, Lloyd's must give 14 days' notice of intention to draw down on names' assets — a move consistent with agreements reached in 38 other states. The last big UK threat to the Lloyd's rescue was removed last week, when the Paying Names Action Group failed in a High Court attempt to block R&R on the grounds that it was unlawful. The PNAG must decide today whether to take its case to the Court of Appeal.

Trocadero targets tourists

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE Trocadero aims to prove it has completed its transformation from a rundown site in London's Piccadilly Circus when it relaunches tomorrow. The leisure complex has undergone a £50 million revamp that includes installing an atrium and banks of video screens inside to create a futuristic feel. SegaWorld, a £45 million games centre, is due to open in September, offering 650 games and amusements targeted at tourists. Over the next year, a theme café, based on Marvel comic characters such as Spider-Man, Captain America and the Incredible Hulk, is also due to open. The complex will hold Imax, the first 3-D cinema in London, and other attractions based on characters in End Bliton stories. The Trocadero has benefited from being hived off from the Burford property group last autumn as a separate AIM company. Trocadero shares closed on Friday at 77p, valuing the company at £85 million, against a 35p float price.

Ferries set for merger talks

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

TALKS that could lead to a merger of Britain's largest ferry companies and end the crippling price war on cross-Channel routes are set to get under way in September. Lord Sterling, chairman of P&O, the largest cross-Channel ferry operator, is expected to contact senior executives at Stena, the second-biggest player, within days to discuss a formal meeting. Last month the companies were given the go-ahead to

negotiate — after a 17-year ban — by Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade. If both sides can agree to talk, a deal could be in place for the start of the main holiday season next Easter. The firms have seen profits sliced during intense competition sparked by the opening of the Channel Tunnel. One operator, Brittany Ferries, had to abandon plans to offer tickets at 1976 prices to mark its 20th anniversary this summer when it discovered fares have fallen by more than a fifth since its service began. Initial talks are expected to centre around merging timetables to cut down on departures and reduce ferry overcapacity on the prime Dover to Calais route. Lord Sterling is under intense City pressure to improve the returns from ferry operations and would like to announce progress with P&O's interim results in mid-September.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD
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- No 864
- ACROSS
1 Discoloured; angry (5)
4 Mary —, 1964 film nanny (7)
8 Major mark of progress (9)
9 Tree; sounds like *peti* (3)
10 Bath; leaky ship (3)
11 Clear (of charges) (9)
12 Dirty mark; libellous imputation (5)
13 Should (5)
16 Reprove; plead against (9)
18 Archaeological excavation (3)
20 (Canister) top (3)
21 In disguise (9)
22 Joy (7)
23 Taut drunk (5)
- DOWN
1 A bound (5)
2 Fluent and outspoken (7)
3 Lowering one's courage; keenness (13)
4 Particle of light (6)
5 Old Spanish dollars (6,2,5)
6 18ac Beneath one's dignity (5,3)
7 Snake; deceiver (7)
12 Ready to be ridden; lumbered (7)
14 Little —, an Eliot Quartet (7)
15 Bringer of luck (6)
17 Foot control (5)
19 Phantom (5)

Parenting costs in a class of their own

By SARAH JONES

DROPPING your five-year-old off on his or her first day of school may tug at the heart strings but it will also certainly pull at the purse strings. According to a report out today, the typical expenditure parents face as their child journeys through their primary and secondary years is a staggering £62,691.59. Increased mortgage payments, caused by needing a larger house, account for the biggest single expenditure (£19,716). Other major expenses in the primary years come in the form of food, pets, eating out and clothing, and in the secondary years, food, entertainment, sports, presents, clothing and pocket money. The combined cost of primary and secondary schools covering uniform, sports gear, equipment, field trips and the odd school holiday comes to £4,661, assuming the child is educated in a state school. Not far behind are Christmas and birthday presents along with parties and the occasional impulse gift purchases (£4,514). Even from the tender age of five there is a massive gap between the haves and the have-nots. *What Price a Child?* — commissioned by Asda, the supermarket group — says that the bottom 10 per cent of spenders will pay out £23,869 over a decade, while the top 10 per cent will spend £137,125. Both sets of parents will receive the same amount of child benefit, which over the years adds up to £6,177. As well as spending less on



Uniforms add to the bills

Cybertec in video venture

Cybertec, a British multimedia communications company, has signed a £4 million deal with Anglo Corporation, which, it says, will bring affordable video conferencing to consumers this autumn. Anglo gets exclusive UK distribution rights to Cybertec's V-COM colour video conferencing kits, retailing at £299, including VAT. Cybertec's system uses standard personal computers and provides real-time video conferencing over standard phone lines. International video phone calls can also be made over the Internet for the cost of a local call. Profit worry British corporate profitability is still less than two thirds of pre-recession levels, with little sign of recovery, according to the latest CCN Corporate Health Check. Profitability peaked in the second quarter of 1995 and has not moved since. A decline in exports has not been compensated for by increased consumer activity. CCN said that investment has fallen below the most pessimistic forecasts and predicted liquidity problems. Services show the most progress in recouping profitability. Black lager Guinness has confirmed that it is testing market response to a new black lager, but says that no decision has yet been taken on whether to launch the product. The drinks group typically runs tests on up to a dozen different products around the world at any one time. A spokesman said: "Not every product we test makes it into the real world."

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Fall from grace in a seaside hotel



Continuing our occasional series, *The Times* unravels a tale of doomed, illicit love between a privileged but naïve young wife and a dashing prince

Born 18 months after her father distinguished himself as a national hero at Trafalgar, Jane Digby enjoyed a golden childhood at Holkham Hall, one of England's great houses. She was an intelligent and affectionate child; a mischievous tomboy who metamorphosed into a head-turning beauty. This and her aristocratic background established her as "a catch" when she made her debut at 16, and within weeks she was engaged to the highly eligible Lord Ellenborough.

Ellenborough, a friend of Wellington, would become a Cabinet Minister and, subsequently, Governor-General of India. At 34, he was more than twice Jane's age; a handsome, sophisticated and serious politician who had been widowed early and now longed for a son. The marriage began blissfully, with the newlyweds writing flowery verse to each

other daily. But Ellenborough was a highly ambitious workaholic and, besides, had a long-established mistress. After her son was born, Jane, the teenaged châteline of two impressive establishments, was increasingly left alone. When she met Prince Felix Schwarzenberg at an Austrian Embassy ball, it was love at first sight for both. Discretion went unheeded as they were seen riding in Rotten Row, in his box at the opera, at the races. Harley Street residents became used to seeing Lady Ellenborough's groom waiting outside number 73, where the prince lived. Had she been older and more sophisticated, Jane might have averted disaster after the lovers spent a night together in Brighton and made the name "Lady Ellenborough" synonymous with scandal for decades...

MARY LOVELL

JANE arrived at the Norfolk Hotel just as the winter light was fading at about five o'clock. She was shown to the suite of apartments in the east wing which she and her husband often used. Entrance from the main part of the hotel was by a staircase which led nowhere else other than to staff quarters. Arthur was brought to her and, as babies will, hating not see his mother for weeks, threw a tantrum. A little later Jane dashed off a note to Ellenborough at Roehampton:

Brighton, Friday night (postmarked 7 February 1829)
To Lord Ellenborough
Connaught Place, London
Dearest Ousey,
I am just arrived, and will only write you one line as I am tired to death with my journey. I found Arthur looking really pretty — you may believe it if I say so — and appears to me much improved in strength, but he greeted me with such a howl! We shall improve upon acquaintance.
If you go to Mrs Hope's tonight, have the thought to make my excuses to save me the trouble of writing them.
The post is ringing. Good night, dearest.
Jane

Felix arrived at the hotel between six and seven o'clock in a hired yellow-bodied chariot driven by a post-boy. He alighted from the coach carry-

ing his cloak and a carpet-bag which bore his coat of arms and initials, and was shown to a room in the west wing. This room was approached by the centre stairway from the main hall of the hotel. Having settled in and had his luggage unpacked by a member of the hotel staff, he took dinner in his private sitting-room and as the waiter was clearing away he asked casually who else was staying in the hotel at this unseasonal time of year. He was told Lady Ellenborough was in residence. "Is that the dowager Lady Ellenborough?" the prince inquired. "No," was the answer. "It is the young Lady Ellenborough." The prince asked the waiter to take his card to the lady with his compliments.

Within a short time, the waiter returned to the prince with the message that the lady would be delighted if, after the prince had dined, he would take tea with her in her room. The waiter personally served tea to Lady Ellenborough and her guest and noted that they remained together until half-past ten, when the prince left to return to his sitting room. Requesting the waiter to fetch a bedroom candle and light it, Felix said goodnight and went up to his bedroom.

At about midnight the hall porter, Robert Hepple, who was sitting in his pantry, heard someone coming down



Lady Jane Ellenborough, a beauty who was engaged and married at an early age. Then Prince Felix Schwarzenberg, above, came into her life...



Edward, Lord Ellenborough, circa 1831



the main stairs. He walked across the hall foyer, which was illuminated by gas lighting, and saw the prince descending the stairs. As soon as the prince saw the porter, he retreated back up the stairs.

Hepple was keen to know what a person at that time was wishing to do and kept out of sight for a while. To ensure that he was not seen, he put out the light in his pantry. His vigil was not long. Within ten or 15 minutes the prince, still wearing the "frock coat, trousers and boots" in which he had dined, softly descended the stairs, crossed the hall and went along the passage leading to the east wing's private stairway.

Mr Hepple followed him and watched as the prince entered Lady Ellenborough's bedroom without knocking. The door was closed and the key turned in the lock. After peering through the keyhole and listening for 15 minutes at the door, Mr Hepple formed his own opinion of what was happening within. He retired at 3am, the prince had not yet reappeared. Next morning Hepple was summoned to the prince's room and asked to press some clothes.

and she did not wish anyone to learn about what had transpired. Begging Walton not to repeat what he had told her to anyone, especially not to her maid, she then gave him "a present" of £20.

Not surprisingly, Walton promised his silence in response to such generosity. It was not often he received a tip that equalled half a year's wages, even though he subsequently gave Hepple £5 of it.

The prince watched Jane depart at 11 o'clock with her small retinue before he also left at about noon in the hired chariot for London.

WITHIN weeks Jane discovered she was pregnant. There

was no doubting the paternity of her second child, since, although she had a bed in the marital bedchamber, she and Ellenborough had not enjoyed sexual relations for some months at her own request.

Meanwhile, reports of Jane's flagrant behaviour had finally begun to make an impression on Ellenborough, especially when his brother Henry related gossip which reflected unfavourably upon her. Too late, Ellenborough accepted the sense of warning letters he had received strongly urging him to spend more time with his young wife. At first his concern showed itself in requests for Jane not to visit those very people to

whom he had introduced her. At length he received a letter from one Robert Hepple, a former employee of the Norfolk Hotel in Brighton. Unfortunately, £5 had not seemed sufficient reason for Mr Hepple to keep his lordship uninformed about Lady Ellenborough's delinquency; he felt his knowledge might be worth more to her husband. The letter contained information which, though he was reluctant to believe it, Lord Ellenborough could not ignore. When Ellenborough confronted his wife with the contents of the letter, Jane confessed, but only partially. She admitted her attachment to Felix, though not the full extent of it, and she denied the act of adultery in Brighton. This was foolishness taken to an absurd degree, for she could not have hoped to hide her condition indefinitely; and

at the date of this discussion she must at least have suspected her pregnancy. Jane's first thought was to rush to Felix and lay her problems upon his broad shoulders; but she got little comfort from him. Apparently realising for the first time the predicament in which he was now placed, the prince was appalled. He saw clearly that the matter could cause a minor diplomatic incident and the end of his promising career. He immediately reported the matter to his ambassador and was given 48 hours to put his affairs in order, pack and leave for home, pending an imminent transfer to the Paris embassy.

On May 11, 1829 Felix left for Europe, telling Jane he had no alternative but to accept his new posting and suggesting that, since she could not confess her pregnancy, she should attempt to obtain Ellenborough's permission to go abroad to be confined in secret. He would, of course, do all in his power to assist her in this delicate matter. His suggestion was not made coldly; he was, according to his letters, still very much in love with Jane. Yet, whatever protestations of love Felix made to her, the fact remains that he rode off leaving his pregnant young mistress to face public condemnation and her husband's wrath for the sake of his career.

Until comparatively recent years *The Times* was renowned for its conservatism, and for its front page which consisted of classified advertisements. In May 1966, when the front page was changed to a news format, there was an outcry. However, there was a precedent. One hundred and thirty six years earlier, in April 1830, the Editor placed the Ellenborough divorce case on the front page with a verbatim report.

Hepple was leading witness for the prosecution and testified what transpired after the prince entered Lady Ellenborough's room at midnight.

Q Did he lock the door after him?
A He did.
Q Did you still watch him?
A I waited a short time at the door... a quarter of an hour the first time; then I went again... and remained there. I darsay, nearly an hour.
Q How near to the door?
A Quite close... I heard two persons talking, a man and a woman in the room... the language was foreign to me, it was not a language I understood.
Q Did you hear anything more?
A I heard him get into bed... and I heard them kissing.
Q What did you hear then?
A I could hear them kissing, and a noise that convinced me that the act of cohabitation was taking place.

For weeks Jane's misdemeanours were breakfast tittle-tattle of the entire country. Respectable women would sit in their own drawing rooms and read shocking revelations about Lady Ellenborough's conduct such as those of Mr John Ward, the Prince's neighbour in Harley Street, who testified that Jane was a frequent visitor to the house opposite, disguised with a white veil. Sometimes, he said, he saw her in the upper-floor room which faced his drawing room.

Q Have you ever observed anything in particular passing between the lady and the prince?
A On one occasion I saw Prince Schwarzenberg assisting in dressing the lady.
Q In what state was the lady at this time?
A The Prince was lacing her stays.
Jane was not present at the hearings. She had bolted to Europe to join Felix in time for the birth of their daughter. In doing so Jane made herself a lifelong social outcast.

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Day one of a new series looks at a people reborn — yet still in fear

ANTI-SEMITISM IN EUROPE

Six years after the collapse of Communism, racist tones are creeping back into the political vocabulary in central and eastern Europe. Roger Boyes investigates

A brave new world for Jews in Germany

BERLIN: AN OASIS IN THE WEST

The five-year-olds have problems opening the bomb and bullet-proof doors of the new Jewish school in Berlin: it is like shifting the stone lid of a tomb. Inside the finely designed building, however, there is nothing of the crypt. For the first time in more than 50 years there is a vibrant Jewish life in Berlin — thanks, in part, to the anti-Semitism of Eastern Europe which has driven Jewish families to seek the improbable shelter of the German capital.

A short urban train ride away from these noisy, lively corridors and from the kosher canteen, there is the white villa on the Wannsee Lake where the destruction of European Jewry was planned by the Nazis. The newly reopened Jewish grammar school meanwhile is no more than a stroll from the unmarked plot of land where Hitler had his bunker. The influx of Jews from the east has made possible these juxtapositions: European Jewry is re-forming, rediscovering roots, building new communities — and perhaps stirring up new enemies.



Grim echoes of the past — a young German neo-Nazi polishes his boots. Anti-Semitism is still an enduring force throughout Central and Eastern Europe

"Invids living on Christian territories" should be the first to be destroyed. The bloodshed of 1096 — Jews were offered a choice between Christian baptism and the sword, prompting thousands to kill themselves — has branded generations; so too have the myths of that epoch. Nine centuries on, anti-Semitic texts in Ukraine, Russia, Slovakia, the Baltic Republics and Poland play with the same imagery: of Jews ritually murdering children, of hook-nosed usurers, the equation of Jews with Satan.

Not much attention is paid by ordinary people to these rabid writings. But a straw poll conducted by a Polish newspaper in November, 1990, produced opinions like these even from educated people... Malgorzata Fijalkowska (a university graduate): "Even if there are just two of them, one will seize power and the other money... What other nation in Poland has its own newspaper, school, theatre, and despite

Vibrant Jewish life has at last returned to Berlin

successive purges, is still in power? And not only here, the United States is also ruled by their money." Or take Krystyna Bilias, a 40-year-old civil servant: "They are an evil nation, but I brought up my children to speak ill of them only at home, and not in public... Let Jews rule their own country and Poles rule theirs."

There are of course many countervailing opinions, many Poles recognise that there are virtually no Jews left in their country, and that the influence of Jews — malign or benign — on the machinery of power is the product of overworked imaginations and manipulated anxieties. But there is no mistaking the enduring force of anti-Semitism throughout Central and Eastern Europe: anti-Semitism without

Jews. Liberal Poles raise their arms in despair and say: "A typically Polish phenomenon." Once home to three million Jews, the community in Poland is now only a few thousand: chiefly Jews are represented by their graves. Yet anti-Semitism without Jews has been a European phenomenon for centuries. There were, for example, almost no Jews left in the Low Countries after the Black Plague, yet texts of the period described the Jews in the most poisonous of prose; a well known French poem characterised the Jews as "wicked and cruel as dogs". There were no Jews remaining in England after their expulsion in 1290, but anti-Semitic themes were played out again and again in the 13th and 14th centuries, even by Chaucer. Norma Drimmer, an energetic

Oleksander has a face like a ploughed field: earthy brown with deep parallel furrows marked not so much by suffering as by the effort of opening and half closing his eyes in hard sunshine.

Embers of ancient hatred glow again

THE RISE OF UKRAINE'S RIGHT

It is a country face, for Oleksander came from a farm to noisy, dirty Kiev. Home was a one-street village drained of memory by centuries of emigration. When Oleksander's wife died there

was nothing left; he moved to the Ukrainian capital, to distant cousins. He spends most of the day watching others play backgammon on a picnic table perched on one of Kiev's many cobbled streets.

"I worry about my son, the Jews have got to him," he says. "He's even wearing a yarmulke." For more than half a century it was regarded as folly to display one's Jewishness. Zhid was stamped in Jewish citizens' internal passports under the category of nationality, and everybody around knew it. But it became a problem only if the Jew turned into a political activist, if he tried to practise his faith openly or apply to emigrate.



Jewish students at a Kiev synagogue — anti-Semitism is still low-key, but worrying

As Oleksander sees it, he survived through discretion. Now the world has gone topsy-turvy. There are even places in Kiev and Odessa where you can buy fake papers attesting to your Jewishness. Ukrainian Jews find reader acceptance in the West than ethnic Ukrainians. There are even Kiev doctors who will circumcise adults to bolster their claims. Some Jews are per- versely flattered — for Ukrainians to pretend to be Jews reverses centuries of anti-Semitism — but most are merely bemused.

The fact is that the Jewish communities in Ukraine have become a source of envy. Not because they are rich, but because they are dynamic, and in an era of drift, have a clear sense of direction. Most commentators agree that anti-Semitism does not whip up great passion in Ukraine. Chrystyna Lapychak, Ukrainian analyst for Radio Free Europe, says the focus of antagonism remains Russians rather than Jews. "Of course when people of Jewish origin are in power making unpopular decisions, then there is hostile muttering," she says. Yuffim Zuyahilsky, the former acting Prime Minister under former President Leonid Kravchuk, is now living in Israel because of corruption allegations in Ukraine. In Kiev bars, it is common to curse the current President, Leonid Kuchma's Jewish chief de cabinet, Dmytro Tabachnyk. "The trouble really comes when workers start to blame their problems not only on the Russians, but also the Poles and the Jews," says a Kiev journalist.

This confusion of anti-Russianism and anti-Semi-

short of such bestiality, but thousands died. The Jewish sympathy of Ukrainian nationalists for the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union, the participation of Ukrainians in SS divisions — all this has made the Jews sensitive to changing winds. The Ukrainian National Assembly has begun building a monument to the Ukrainian "heroes" who helped murder Jews during the Second World War.

The gestures made recently by the Ukrainian Government towards reconciliation with Israel and the relative protection offered to the new Jewish communities cannot quite cancel out this blood-soaked history. A combination of economic uncertainty and historical

anxiety is enough to set Jews packing their cases again. Theirs is a history of migration. In 1988, in the windy seaside town of Ladyspol, north of Rome, I met Mischa Weintraub, from Odessa. The Jewish emigration organisation was keen that he and other members of the Gorbachev exodus move to Israel. Mischa wanted to go to America, and become rich. Eventually, he must have got his wish. We talked last week. He is called Mike now, owns a truck haulage company on the West Coast, and is thinking of setting his sister up with her own roadside café. But he is intrigued by what is happening in his little-loved homeland. "Maybe it's time to emigrate back again," he said. "I heard the dollar goes a long way in Kiev." As for anti-Semitism: "I'm not afraid, I'm an American now — and American Jews don't poison wells."

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Anti-Semitism is dead, but the anti-Semites live on. Roger Boyes reports from Prague

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Memories of my unhappy father

Somerset Maugham's last years were marked by a public family feud which deeply hurt his only child. But her love for him remains undiminished

LADY Elizabeth Glendevon lives alone in affluent seclusion in Guernsey. A small woman in a large, rambling house, she protects her privacy fiercely. For more than 30 years she has spoken about her father, if at all, with profound reluctance — for she is the daughter whose paternity Somerset Maugham disclaimed.

She is cautious and guarded on the legal dispute that divided the family in the last years of Maugham's life. Journalists alarm her. They remind her of what she calls "the unhappiest period of an otherwise happy life".

That period was the early Sixties when the octogenarian Maugham, sinking lugubriously into senility and obsessed with his will and the disposition of his estate, attempted to exclude his daughter (and only child) from any future inheritance. "He claimed that his offspring had done nothing to deserve his money but to have been born," says his biographer, Robert Calder.

The only daughter from Maugham's marriage to the divorcee and society hostess Syrie Wellcome, Lady Glendevon, now 81, remembers the aged Maugham as a "sad and disturbed man". And yet, despite what she calls her "enduring hurt", her memories of her father are largely good. She speaks about him with fondness. In particular, she remembers his kindness to her as a child.

"Whenever he was home he used to read to me — Kipling and his other favourites — before I went to sleep. I treasured those moments. And after the divorce, when he was living in France, whenever he came to London he took me to lunch at Claridges, or to the theatre."

The Glendevons have always resolutely insisted that it was not Maugham but his secretary and companion of 35 years, Alan Searle, who instigated the feud. Searle is portrayed in several biographies as in the words of Robert Calder, a grasping, self-seeking sycophant who manipulated a senile old man in order to gain his estate. Maugham's nephew, the late Robin Maugham, was more sympathetic to Searle, but thought that his uncle was vulnerably deranged at the time of the legal action: "He had this ghastly fear that he had sold his soul to the devil and the devil was coming to get him."

The family dispute began in 1962 when Maugham sold, in an auction at Sotheby's, his collection of paintings, including Picasso's *Death of a Harlequin* and Matisse's *The Yellow Chair*. The paintings raised \$1.5 million. Lady Glendevon retaliated by successfully suing for the proceeds of nine paintings, valued at £231,750, that had been assigned to her in a deed. Maugham, who Lady



MICHAEL POWELL



"Wherever we went we were hounded by reporters": Lady Glendevon today and (above right) being given away by Somerset Maugham on the day of her first wedding; below, a portrait of her by Cecil Beaton

Glendevon thinks was by this time suffering from Alzheimer's, responded by seeking to disown his daughter and adopt as his son Alan Searle. Although the adoption was contested and nullified by a French court, Searle eventually inherited £50,000, the contents of Maugham's Villa Mauresque in Cap Ferrat and, most crucially, his manuscripts — and the copyright on his work for 30 years.



JASON COWLEY

When Searle died in August 1985, the lucrative copyrights passed not to Lady Glendevon but to the Royal Literary Fund. "They should have been mine," Lady Glendevon says, fixing me with a steely gaze. "I had them once, you know." Lady Glendevon was widowed in January. Married for 38 years to Lord John Hope, the former Conservative MP and younger twin son of the 2nd Marquess of Linlithgow (he was created Lord Glendevon in 1964), she is moving back to London in September. She wants to be closer to her children — Nicholas and Camilla from her first marriage, to Vincent Paravicini, and Julian and Jonathan.

"I have bought a flat in Eaton Square. It has a frightfully small garden but it will give my little dog a place in which to run," she says, leading me from the sunlight of the garden, past a cabinet of deteriorating Maugham first editions in the hallway and into the long shadows of her drawing room. A distinguished, handsome woman, her light voice echoes in the open spaces around her. Her diction, with its clipped vowels and archaic adverbs, is redolent of a more genteel age.

She is frail but not vulnerable. Her eyes are shrewd. She tells me repeatedly how much she dislikes journalists. She has good cause. "The press made my life a misery during the period of the difficulties with my father," she says. "They wouldn't leave me alone. Wherever we went we were hounded by reporters and photographers: they used to wait outside our house in Chelsea Square. One reporter used to leave his finger continually on the bell. It was horrendous."

After eventually reaching a settlement, under which Lady Glendevon received £100,000 plus costs after renouncing any further claim, she might have on her father's estate as his daughter. Lady Glendevon went to see Maugham. She knew he was dying but wanted to make her peace. The Maugham she found was not the father she had loved. "I wanted to say farewell and make everything all right with him but he didn't know who I was. He was very ill — I think he probably had Alzheimer's but no one knew about that then. His condition was made worse by the fact that you-know-who [she refuses to name Searle] had poured poison in his ear. Without his awful influence my father would have been simply gaga. Instead, he became paranoid: he was convinced that I wanted to have him certified. Whenever he heard a car on the drive he thought he was going to be taken into a home. I'm afraid his mind had been poisoned."

Elizabeth Mary Maugham was born on May 6, 1915. She was educated by various governesses and at the Miss Spalding School in Queensgate, London. "There was never any question of my going to university or of pursuing a career," she recalls with soft laughter. "That wasn't what women did in those days." Or, perhaps she should have said, what women of a certain class did. For her antecedents were notable. Her maternal grandfather was Dr Barnardo; her paternal grandfather, Robert Maugham, was solicitor to the British Embassy in Paris; and her mother's first husband was the eminent chemist Henry Wellcome. The young Liza grew up surrounded by writers, painters, minor royalty, exotic baronets: her teenage years were an "endless round of parties" in fabulous houses. She married Vincent Paravicini, son of the Swiss Ambassador to Britain, when she was only 19. They divorced in 1946. "Our marriage could not withstand a separation of four years brought about by the war," Lady Glendevon says. "We always remained good friends, though."

as "odd, watchful and intensely secretive": Waugh was peppery and caustic. "He was really rather a difficult man, especially when he'd had a few drinks. He had this air of intellectual superiority and was awfully sarcastic."

Summers were spent at their country house near Boulogne. "My mother was extremely good at mixing different kinds of people, so that at our country house parties there would be artists, writers and society types." She remembers Coward composing songs on her piano. "Noel wrote several songs while staying with us. I used to sit goggle-eyed watching him as he composed at the piano. He was frightfully charming."

Her parents divorced when she was just 12. Maugham, a veiled though promiscuous homosexual, had fallen in love with Gerald Haxton, a hard-drinking American he met while serving as a driver and dresser in a Red Cross ambulance unit in France during



the Second World War. Maugham was 40, Haxton was in his early twenties; they stayed together for 30 years, living mainly in the south of France.

Maugham described his marriage as the most serious mistake of his life. "I was a quarter normal and three-quarters queer, but I tried to persuade myself it was the other way round." Lady Glendevon refuses to speak of his sexuality.

"Ghastly things have been said. It is most unfair. Would people say the same things today if he were alive? I doubt it. It wouldn't be an issue." She is, however, prepared to speak about Maugham's attitude to her mother. "I am sure that he loved her and there were very times when they were very happy together. They were essentially two different people. He spent an awful lot of time abroad, travelling in the South Pacific and living in France. And my mother was busy with her parties, and

later with her work as an interior designer. I suppose, even when they were married, they lived separate lives."

In Robin Maugham's memoir of his uncle, *Conversations with Willie*, he poignantly describes how shortly before Syrie's death she met her former husband at the Dorchester. The meeting was short and tense: Syrie told Maugham that she still loved him, but the writer was imperiously unmoved. "You don't love me — you can't — because you've never known me," Lady Glendevon believes her mother never stopped loving Maugham.

After the divorce, Lady Glendevon moved with her mother from their house in Bryanston Square, near Marble Arch, to a "rather lovely" house in Chelsea, where Syrie continued to host parties.

Curiously, Lady Glendevon says that she was only "briefly upset" by her parents' divorce. "It certainly didn't break my heart. This was because when they were married I saw my father infrequently. He travelled so much that I got used to not having him around."

Later, following her own divorce, Lady Glendevon would take her children, Nicholas and Camilla, who is now married to the champagne heir Count Frederic Chandon, to see Maugham in Cap Ferrat. She remembers Maugham being haunted by the memory of his mother, who died when he was just eight. "He absolutely adored his mother. Once when I was staying with him — he was already into his eighties — he did a most curious thing. I was in his sitting room when he told me to wait while he went upstairs. When he came down he was holding a long strand of his mother's hair — he'd kept it all those years. I was

very moved but also appalled by what I saw."

Maugham has an almost archival presence in English literature: the wild glamour and excesses of the life are remembered more than the work. This is a shame because, as Lady Glendevon points out, his fiction has brought pleasure to millions.

As Lady Glendevon prepares to leave the house she loves to return to a city she no longer "knows nor understands", she explains one last time how she feels no bitterness towards her father.

"I feel no anger towards him over what happened. He was a marvellous writer, absolutely dedicated to his art. I am sorry that he is no longer taken as seriously as he once was but I'm sure he will be read."

"We did love each other, you know. I was closer to my mother, as girls tend to be, but I was very fond of him, and he was fond of me until he went mad."

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ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD



VISUAL ART Richard Wilson creates mayhem in the Serpentine Gallery, prior to its redevelopment



DANCE The Coliseum hosts a London season by Mikhail Baryshnikov and his company



MUSIC Anne-Sophie Mutter plays Brahms with the New York Phil at the Albert Hall



THEATRE Kiss the Sky, Jim Cartwright's 'psychedelic musical', opens at the Shepherds Bush Empire

Pulp put the fizz in Essex's big day

POP: Paul Sexton peers through a Chelmsford wood at the V96 festival's parade of British talent

The V96 event takes its name, inevitably in these days of the corporate endorsement, from the sponsorship of Virgin Cola...

become a benign presence, he still plays his part with conviction: in Cars he sent a ripple through the trees with one of the most enduring British pop songs of the past two decades.

Splendidly squalid tales of the most mangy aspects of modern romance

the debut single that marked their card earlier this year. But four-girl neo-punks Fluffy showed that, while they have listened to all the right records from 1977 and before, they have little idea how to use them to their advantage.

an allowance as their performance marked the British debut of two new players, bassist Sheila Chipperfield and keyboard player Dave Bush. But their set contained several of their familiar musical frailties, particularly a guitar note in Waking Up that was not just bum but positively homeless.



Pulp's Jarvis Cocker, whose extravagant thespianism successfully walked the tightrope between the corn and the credible

Beethoven's Leonore, the earlier version of his opera Fidelio, has had many advocates over the years. But few have approached it with more careful enthusiasm than John Eliot Gardiner.

First thoughts roundly revealed

bound for Salzburg, is performing its own edition based on the 1805 text; but the revisions Beethoven made have not been ignored, and all the spoken dialogue is cut (a practical decision, but one which unbalances it).

BBC PROMS Leonore Albert Hall/Radio 3

offers less mature commentary on the human condition. But wonderful extra numbers, and fuller versions of well-known ones, flesh out the characters, even if Beethoven's symphonic thinking sometimes impedes the drama.

phrase was unevenly projected, without any dramatic advantages (even this young, handsome cast was not best viewed from behind). The simple staging — a handful of props — worked better at static moments, and the prisoners' chorus and dungeon scenes were movingly managed.

JOHN ALLISON

Bach unplugged

TO CRAM all six of Bach's concertos for two or more harpsichords into one programme had more appeal in theory than in practice. It was one of the week of early music concerts on the South Bank in competition with the Proms and it evidently delighted its own band of enthusiasts.

The four harpsichords, three copied from French models and one of Flemish origin, their cases coloured red, blue, green and ivory respectively, were set in a semicircle behind the five solo strings of the New London Consort. Such a balance was a far cry from the 1950s when Eileen Joyce would team up with Thurston Dart, George Malcolm and others to be heard well amplified against a full string orchestra.

EARLY MUSIC New London Consort Queen Elizabeth Hall

His keyboard colleagues, Richard Egarr in all the concertos, Gary Cooper and Paul Nicholson in some, were best heard to multiple effect in the A minor quadruple concerto derived from Vivaldi, where the blended texture was kept well ventilated to let the separate strands be heard.

NOEL GOODWIN

The plot thickens — then sets

I don't know about the love, but there was certainly much lust looking for satisfaction in the bosky avenues of St James's Park 300 years ago.

THEATRE Love in a Wood New End, NW3

White Hall. The downside of this convenience seems to have been that firts and libertines might find themselves accosting by mistake the persons who genuinely loved them.

There are passages that sound like a template for all the convoluted amorous intrigues in every Restoration comedy that followed. Sir Simon Adleplot disguises himself as an obsequious clerk in order to further his scheme to marry a skinflint's daughter.



Amanda Osborne as the amorous Lady Flippant gets cosy with Ranger (Christopher Gilling) in Love in a Wood

As if this were not enough for us, a further cluster of adventures concern young Ranger's pursuit of a young headdress who changes cloaks with another headdress and is therefore pursued, to the rage of the second headdress's

lover, who fled abroad after a duel but has secretly returned home. Dazed by all these twists I echoed the comment from Christopher Gilling's Ranger, the play's dashing heroic hunk: "When we are giddy 'tis time to stand still."

The play's conclusion suggests that Wycherley is trying to redefine matrimony as a state of liberty, not bondage, although none of the four marriages in the last act looks likely to discover any truth in this.

There is enough sprightly wordplay to make the London Classic Theatre's revival pleasant enough, despite being a couple of complications too long. Last year's Restoration comedy — they are annual events at this venue — made a garish attempt to modernise the play through costume changes. Michael Cabot's happier device is to introduce apt snapshots from Judy Garland, Tammy Wynette and others between scenes.

There are good performances from Anna Kirke's pinched matchmaker, Mrs Joiner, spying on the verbal foreplay from the side of the stage, and from Alexander Rickard as a timid but faithful friend, Amanda Osborne's Lady Flippant spreads her haughty reproofs with honey; and when Adleplot is finally thwarted Jason Baughan throws himself into such uninhibited dismay that his knees turn to rubber and he finishes with his face in the carpet. Needless to say, when he gets to his feet he tells us "I have devised a revenge", but that's your Restoration comedy.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Tragedy of guerrillas in the myth

Kathleen Desmond's new version of Electra at Andrews Lane Theatre introduces some clever translations as it replays the Greek tragedy in a pre-casual Belfast.

Naive Ollie (Les Martin) soon begins to display confused republican sympathies when he receives an unexpectedly warm welcome in the community that once honoured his father, a murdered paramilitary hero.

Electra Dublin

Mercurial Ellie (Abbie Spallen) remorselessly exploits her brother's desire to get involved with the republican cause, and the tragedy ripens when she sends him across the tracks to avenge their father's murder.

Caroline Lynch's sparse staging could easily have been more courageous. Although the space is left fairly uncluttered, filled only by a handful of black chairs and the occasional slide projection, the director sometimes seems to lose confidence and lurch towards naturalism.

The production's salvation comes in the form of Eithne McGuinness as Ellie's guardian, Cassy. McGuinness's small performance draws in all the threads that the dramatist has so carefully left lying untravelling around the stage.

down-trodden Cassy to give the link dramatic form.

As Perez crawls around her with his camera, snapping images, she blandly expounds the woes of her city and the sexual undertones of the violence around her, pausing only momentarily as the shutter opens, to bare her teeth in the freshest, most resilient of smiles.

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Loons in kangaroo slippers

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ARTS
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IN SECTION 2

Loons in kangaroo slippers

THEATRE: Benedict Nightingale
on a satirical spin-off that lacks all the virtues of the 16th-century original

As the Edinburgh Festival's theatrical subdivision ever had a more disappointing opening week than in this, its fifth year? First, Robert Lepage's *Elisnore* took its deconstruction of *Hamlet* to perverse extremes by never opening at all. Then Miranda Richardson recited bits of Virginia Woolf's *Orlando* against a background jointly designed by Euclid and a shower-curtain tycoon. And, to

duped by Sensuality, Flattery and other vices, but to protect the common people against a corrupt clergy. Representatives of the three great estates — Church, barons, merchants — watch from the sidelines as a cross-section of "laithly lurdan loons" are exposed by Divine Correction and either sent packing or hanged.

John McGrath's updated production changes the three estates to politicians, multinational corporations and City gents and reduces them to grotesque dummies. On comes an assortment of right-wing rotters, among them a withered Major, a smirking Blair, and chaps with names like Cheap Labour and Privatised Cedric. But it is the fourth estate that really rouses the agitprop in McGrath. He spends most of the evening paying the nation's journalists and newspaper proprietors, especially those at the helm of News International, an unintended compliment. We control the planet and seem virtually capable of reshaping the universe, not excluding the moons of Saturn.



Lindsay's homily has its comic moments, but never loses its intellectual elegance and moral grandeur. Indeed, McGrath himself concedes in the programme that the *Satire* is "the greatest play to emerge from Scotland" and, when Tyrone Guthrie staged it in the early days, gave the Edinburgh Festival its "greatest production". Why, then, have

the Festival authorities celebrated their half-century by substituting this silly, coarse and imaginatively monotonous spin-off? McGrath accuses journalists of talking down to the punters. But what else does he do when he brings Bruce Smart-Card, Slavinger Droll, Sir Righteous Indignation and other "crooks and liars" to cavort in front of papier-mâché drags and menace the Harry Lauder clone, Grandpa Jack, in weak rhyming couplets? There is no argument,



Mary-Ann Coburn, as Sal Sitem, and Roland MacLeod (Sir Righteous Indignation) in *A Satire of the Four Estates*, a political panto directed at newspaper proprietors

only indictment and more indictment. It is a kangaroo court for uppity Aussies in their funny kangaroo slippers. But what of the show's positive aspects? Well, McGrath seems to have replaced the international socialism of Marxist nationalism. Following Lindsay, his vices disguise themselves as virtues, this time Democracy, Equality and Charity, and thrust themselves on Michael Nardone's Humanity, here the soul of a Scotland liberating itself from

"England, old and grey". You won't be surprised to hear that the young man resists the menacing journals and makes Maria Miller's Jenny, a pure Highland lass who has left from the womb in which she has been trapped since 1707. Together, they will enjoy freedom, as well as "songs, stories, and the way we cook". Alas, poor Scotland! A future comprising haggis, politically correct newspapers and plays like *this*? Maybe the Union has life in it yet.

Songs of Travel might have foundered on its bluntness but for an inspired treatment of its epilogue. The Usher Hall was far from full for the late-night concert immediately afterwards. Bearing in mind that Rufus little more than half an hour and that Emmanuel Nunes is still an almost unknown quantity as far as the British public is concerned, it would surely have made sense to cut the ticket price by at least half. With Emilio Pomaricu and the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra to pay for, it was always a loss-maker anyway. Certainly the first British performance was an experience, remarkable for its sustained assault of energy. But then, after high strings have magically caught hold of the echoes of an immense crescendo cut off at its height, enters a typical phrase with a charmer cantabile. The message communicated by horn and tam-tam sounds from *Das Lied von der Erde* was unclear but not unemotive.

GERALD LARNER

There are few singers who can fill the Usher Hall — fill it, that is, not only with an audience and a voice but also with personality. Bryn Terfel, whose Edinburgh Festival recital with Malcolm Martineau was all but sold out weeks ago, is one of those few. There was no doubt about the voice from his very first entry in Schubert's *Gryppe aus dem Tartarus* with a sound so solid that it might have been carved out of granite. At the end of the same composer's *Litanie*, where the vocal line was drawn on such a slender *flautissimo* that the pianist could scarcely squeeze in below it, the voice still filled the hall.

There was never any doubt about the Terfel personality, either. Saving the Welsh equivalent of Billy Connolly banter for the encore episode, he put his personal authority to serious use early in the recital by asking his audience, which was clearly incapable of taking a polite hint, not to applaud in the middle of a group of songs. On an evening beset by latecomers and mysterious electronic whistles, there

Perfectly tuned for volume and contrast

Bryn Terfel/Rufus Usher Hall, Edinburgh

were enough interruptions as it was. More to the point, the Schubert group had been carefully worked out to form a continuity. It was a matter largely of contrast — between, say, the soaring ecstasy of *Ganymede* and the eerie motionlessness of *Meeres Stille*, or the manic extremes of *Lachen und Weinen* and the serenity of *Du bist die Ruh* — but also of subtly made cross-references, as when *An die Leier* combined in itself the stony and the sentimental aspects of the first two songs in the group. And there was a wealth of accomplished characterisation: the vindictively childish voice in *Heiden-*

röslein emphasised the point that it is not about little boys and wild roses at all. As for *Erkörung*, introduced by piano-playing so stony that it flattered the music on the stand, it has never been more dramatically realised. There was more opportunity for characterisation in their *Quatre Chansons de Don Quichotte* — for Terfel above all in the pathetic chivalry of the Ronsard setting, and for Martineau in the discreet hints of tango rhythms accompanying Quixote's death. It was the pianist who supplied most of the poetry in an interpretation of Vaughan Williams's

<p>ENTERTAINMENTS</p> <p>ART GALLERIES</p> <p>INTERNATIONAL ART SUMMER 1996</p> <p>Appel, Lowry, Newcomb, Moore, Picasso, Pollock, Rauschenberg, Rothko, Turner, Warhol, Young, etc.</p>	<p>THEATRES</p> <p>SUNSET "A SHOW FIT FOR A KING" Tms "THE HIT MUSICAL" Tms "THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA" Tms</p> <p>BOULEVARD "THE MOST UNPREDICTABLY ENJOYABLE SHOW IN LONDON" Tms</p>	<p>CHAPEL OF LOVE/PICCADILLY "A SAUCY COMEDY" Tms</p> <p>JOEY & CHINA'S WEDDING "THE MOST UNPREDICTABLY ENJOYABLE SHOW IN LONDON" Tms</p>	<p>HAYMARKET "A CLASSIC 19th CENTURY COMEDY" Tms</p> <p>THE ODD COUPLE "A CLASSIC 19th CENTURY COMEDY" Tms</p> <p>THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA "THE MOST UNPREDICTABLY ENJOYABLE SHOW IN LONDON" Tms</p>	<p>NATIONAL THEATRE "THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA" Tms</p> <p>LES MISÉRABLES "THE MOST UNPREDICTABLY ENJOYABLE SHOW IN LONDON" Tms</p> <p>THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA "THE MOST UNPREDICTABLY ENJOYABLE SHOW IN LONDON" Tms</p>	<p>PRINCE OF WALES "THE BEST SHOW IN TOWN" Tms</p> <p>THE HIT MUSICAL "THE MOST UNPREDICTABLY ENJOYABLE SHOW IN LONDON" Tms</p> <p>THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA "THE MOST UNPREDICTABLY ENJOYABLE SHOW IN LONDON" Tms</p>	<p>STRAND THEATRE "THE BEST SHOW IN TOWN" Tms</p> <p>VICTORIA PALACE "THE MOST UNPREDICTABLY ENJOYABLE SHOW IN LONDON" Tms</p> <p>THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA "THE MOST UNPREDICTABLY ENJOYABLE SHOW IN LONDON" Tms</p>
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OBITUARIES

THE VERY REV ERIC EVANS

The Very Rev Eric Evans, KCVO, Dean of St Paul's since 1988, died on August 17 aged 68. He was born on February 1, 1928.



Eric Evans, who died on holiday in Gloucestershire, was a typically gregarious Welshman from West Wales who won the affection of thousands of people by his smile, his welcome, his many kindnesses and his hospitality.

Born into the educational culture of the Welsh valleys, Thomas Eric Evans secured his first degree at St David's College, Lampeter, after which he moved on to St Catherine's College, Oxford, and, as an ordinand, to St Stephen's House, one of the most Anglo-Catholic of Anglican theological colleges.

Ordained deacon in 1954, he was priested at Canterbury Cathedral a year later by Geoffrey Fisher, the highly traditionalist ninth Archbishop, with whom he struck up a warm friendship.

Basil Guy, then Bishop of Gloucester, appointed Evans as diocesan canon missionary in 1969, in which post he also became a residential canon of Gloucester Cathedral, an office he kept on his preference to the archdeaconry of Cheltenham in 1975.

His ministry "in the West" led him to various duties such as being a governor of Cheltenham Ladies' College, a chaplain to the Air Training Corps, the Gloucester College of Education and the Gloucestershire Constabulary.

His appointment to St Paul's was widely believed to have been owed to the direct hand of Margaret Thatcher. (Prime Ministers can still personally select deans, though no longer bishops.)

Long after his move to St Paul's, he could still frequently be heard proposing some course of action which he had advocated when he was "in that cathedral in the West".

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ANNE KRISTEN

Anne Kristen, actress, died of cancer on August 7 aged 59. She was born in Glasgow on March 7, 1937.

Kristen was in many television dramas, including Wings, Good Time Girls, Spoils of War, Swallows and Amazons, Minder, Taggart, Dr Finlay and Hamish Macbeth. But the part that brought her particular fame and recognition — and one which she greatly enjoyed playing — was that of Norma Sullivan, the vulnerable and harassed receptionist in the emergency wing in the series Casualty.



ANNE KRISTEN was one of Scotland's best-loved actresses. Her work was known to audiences all over Britain through her many television roles — especially in the BBC's Casualty — but almost all her stage appearances were made north of the border.

From school she went straight to the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama where, on graduating, she was awarded the academy's gold medal which entitled her to join the Citizens' Theatre straight away.

A controversial innovation — though St Paul's was not the first cathedral to move in this direction — was the introduction of the practice of charging everyone but worshippers for entry.

A happier memory was the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of VE-Day in May 1995. Evans and his colleagues were hosts to more than fifty Heads of State from all over the world, in a memorable act of worship.

Her marriage to Iain Cuthbertson ended in divorce. They had no children.

Way from acting, Kristen had an intense love of the countryside. She married the Scottish actor Iain Cuthbertson in the 1970s and they became tenants of a National Trust property called Rockcliffe on the Solway Firth.

In the last few months of her life when she was suffering severely from cancer she was moved to Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. A lady in the bed next to hers thought she recognised her and asked whether they had seen each other in Salfrey.

Her marriage to Iain Cuthbertson ended in divorce. They had no children.

PROFESSOR TADEUS REICHSTEIN

Professor Tadeus Reichstein, pharmacologist, died in Basle, Switzerland, on August 1 aged 99. He was born in Wloclawek, Poland on July 20, 1897.



A NOBEL-prizewinning scientist whose work helped to build the modern bridge spanning organic chemistry and medicine, Tadeus Reichstein made his first momentous contribution to pharmacology in 1933 when he devised a method of synthesising vitamin C.

The sophisticated oxidation process which he used has proved astoundingly enduring. Worldwide, thousands of tons of this vitamin are

synthesised annually, and it is the Reichstein procedure which is still relied upon.

year later, working in parallel with clinical pharmacologists in America, he began to study hormonal structure in the adrenal cortex.

Between them these scientists isolated more than 40 different substances, many of which performed vital roles. Among these Reichstein identified aldosterone which controls the salt-water ratio of the human body and, more famously, corticosterone, now known as cortisone, the anti-inflammatory steroid effective in the treatment of arthritis.

Among the vital steroids named were those which mediated the immune response, controlled nervous development, determined sex and governed the rate of metabolism of sugars. Of these a total of about 30 were isolated and synthesised by Reichstein and his team and in 1950 he, and the American scientists Edward Kendall and Philip Hench, were jointly awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine and Physiology.

ABDUL RAHMAN BABU

Sheikh Abdul Rahman Muhammad Babu, former Tanzanian politician, died in the London Chest Hospital on August 5 aged 71. He was born in Zanzibar on September 22, 1924.



A COMMITTED Pan-Africanist, Abdul Rahman Muhammad Babu fought throughout his life for the liberation of his continent from colonial rule. He was a prominent member of international Left-wing circles, his friends and collaborators including such figures as Che Guevara, Chou-en-Lai, Malcolm X, and Pakistan's Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

Abdul Rahman Muhammad Babu was born into a distinguished religious family. His forefathers had migrated from Mecca to Iraq and to Hadramaut in southern Yemen.

For a time Babu's father lived and worked in Mozambique, before moving to Zanzibar where he served briefly as the Portuguese consul.

After an early grounding in Islamic education, Babu went on to study at the Government Central School in Zanzibar. But, after a time as a clerk with the Clove Growers Association, he moved to London in 1950. There he was exposed to radical politics and was for a time an anarchist. He worked closely with Lord (Fenner) Brockway in the Movement for Colonial Freedom.

In 1957 he returned to Africa to work as secretary general for the pro-independence Zanzibar Nationalist Party (ZNP). But his work was interrupted in 1962 when, after publishing an editorial alleging that the British had turned Zanzibar into a police state, he was imprisoned for sedition. He became something of a hero during his brief incarceration

and his eventual release was marked by festivities. But the adulation proved short-lived.

After fundamental disagreements with the more conservative faction of the ZNP, Babu left the party in 1963 and founded the Marxist Umma Party. Now he was cast as a bogeyman who would turn "mosques into bars", misleading the youth. It was, indeed, among the youth that he found his most dedicated following.

Abdul Karume, it was Babu's Umma Party which gave it its ideological ballast. The ill-educated Karume was not comfortable with Babu, Nor was Julius Nyerere in neighbouring Tanganyika. He and Karume, with the encouragement of the United States — also uncomfortable with events in Zanzibar (the "Cuba of Africa") — hastily united their countries to form Tanzania in April 1964.

At the time Babu, by then holding his first ministerial portfolio as Zanzibar's foreign affairs and external trade minister, was in Pakistan. Although he opposed the manner in which the Union was formed, there was little he could do to reverse the decision. On his return home, he was reshuffled and sent to work in Nyerere's office as planning minister. It was the first of a number of ministerial positions which he held in the

Union Government until 1971, when he was dropped by Nyerere.

In April 1972 Karume was assassinated and Babu, although out fishing when the deed was done, was arrested and detained by Nyerere without trial until 1978. He was accused of leading the leader of a plot to oust the Government.

On his release, Babu left Tanzania to teach at universities in the USA and in Britain. He also wrote extensively for a number of international journals. But his only published book was African Socialism or Socialist Africa (1961).

Towards the end of his life he abandoned many of his earlier postures, conceding that mistakes had been made. He began to champion democracy, accepting that a multi-party system was necessary for development. Though himself an anti-monarchist, he worked closely with King Moshohoe of Lesotho, who was in exile in London, to form a pan-African human rights organisation to fight for what they called "Africa's second liberation".

Throughout his political career, Babu was supported by Ashura, his wife. They were divorced in the early 1990s, and this had a detrimental effect on Babu's re-entry into mainstream Tanzanian politics in 1995. Ashura would probably have prevented him from committing the blunder of joining the hopeless National Convention for Construction and Reform which had adopted him as its vice-presidential running mate. He was disqualified from running by the Government because he had spent time in detention on treason charges.

Babu is survived by three sons and a daughter. Another daughter pre-deceased him.

perhaps one doubtful exception, who had poored meat sandwiches became ill.

In the evening the guests dined at the hotel. It was only about breakfast time the next morning that the first and not very pronounced symptoms were experienced. Young Mr Talbot had not come down, and his father, Mr C. J. Talbot, KC, of London, went up to see him. His son excused himself from breakfast, saying that he had double vision and was not quite fit.

Later Mr Williams, another of the guests, made practically an identical complaint. For a time "seeing double" was regarded as a joke, but before long symptoms pointing to some disturbing agency were more clearly discovered in dizziness among the guests, cases of actual sickness, and later, a distressing form of paralysis which affected the muscles of the throat, ultimately making speech impossible. Consciousness persisted to the end in each case, and the sufferers, unable to speak, communicated their wishes and explained their symptoms in writing.

Alarm spread in the hotel, and medical aid was quickly obtained. Altogether six medical men considered the cases and attended the sufferers. The distress of the latter deepened, although there was very little pain, and general collapse followed. Another ghillie is suffering, but there are hopes of his recovery.

SCOTTISH POISON MYSTERY

Dingwall, August 18. The death resulting from accidental poisoning at Lochmear, Gairloch, Ross-shire, through eating sandwiches that contained preserved potted meat, has been increased to seven, two more of the victims having died.

The following is a list of the dead: Mr John Saward, 70, cloth merchant of Follide, Paisley; Mr William Vickers Dixon, Blackrock, Co Dublin, and Mrs Dixon, his wife; Mr John F. Talbot, RA; Mr Edward Gordon Williams, 66, barrister of London; Mrs Rosamund Sophia Anderson, wife of Major Anderson, DSO, Seaforth Highlanders, Parliament Street, London; Kenneth MacLennan, ghillie, of Aultbea.

It is stated that an official investigation disclosed no neglect or want of precaution on the part of anyone. Medical opinion, in effect, is that rather than ptomaine poisoning, with the implication of bad meat, some food poison organism was the cause of the deaths. One expert is understood to have said that this was less surprising in the case of preserved meat than in meat freshly killed and freshly cooked, which stood no risk of contamination from an accidental and undiscovered defect in a

ON THIS DAY

August 19, 1922

Sandwiches provided by a Scottish hotel, which contained preserved potted meat, were believed to have caused the deaths of seven people.

The sandwiches were made fresh on Monday morning. There were three cold roast meat sandwiches in each packet, and three sandwiches either of preserved potted meat, or potted chicken and ham, or potted turkey and tongue, the latter both of the preserved type. The evidence is that those, and only those with

Advertisement for 'At a Service Near You' featuring Ruth Gledhill. Includes a 'BOOK OFFER' section and a coupon for requesting the book. The coupon asks for name, address, and phone number, and offers a £5.99 price for the book.

evangelical styles of worship, in particular the joy and movement that comes with some of the best spiritual songs.

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NEWS

Belgian police find two bodies

Belgian police are convinced they are on the trail of a gang of murderous paedophiles after the discovery of the decaying bodies of two eight-year-old girls.

MPs in backlash over identity cards

Michael Howard is facing a backlash among Conservative backbench MPs angered that the Union Jack might be dropped from the national identity card to avoid offending nationalists in Northern Ireland.

Teenager shot dead

William Wates, 19, the son of Andrew Wates, the multimillionaire builder and part-owner of this year's Grand National winner Rough Quest, has been shot dead in Honduras.

Dancing with danger

More than eight out of 10 professional dancers are injured annually, their bodies left vulnerable by poor diet, long hours and draughty rehearsal rooms.

Museum sued

The Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge faces legal action over a multimillion-pound bequest of Renaissance bronzes whose ownership is being contested.

A murder too many?

A German multinational executive's murder has shaken South Africa's nervous foreign businesses and injected urgency into anti-crime strategies.

Perot success

Ross Perot became America's third official presidential candidate, brushing aside a challenge for his new Reform Party's nomination from Richard Lamu.

Detested mayor

Jacques Bompard, the National Front mayor of Orange, has become one of France's most feared and detested men.

Russian failure

The Chechen war has highlighted the failure of Russia's armed forces to learn the lessons of Afghanistan.

Another book

New accounting rules are to be sent to Church of England vicars to make it harder for them to break the commandment, thou shalt not steal.

Tory strategy

Senior Tory strategists are preparing to ditch past election tactics aimed at wooing 'Essex Man' in a final effort to win back lost voters in marginal constituencies.

IRA inquiry

The IRA has begun one of its most far-reaching internal inquiries after a series of damaging undercover operations by the security authorities.

Vicar mourned

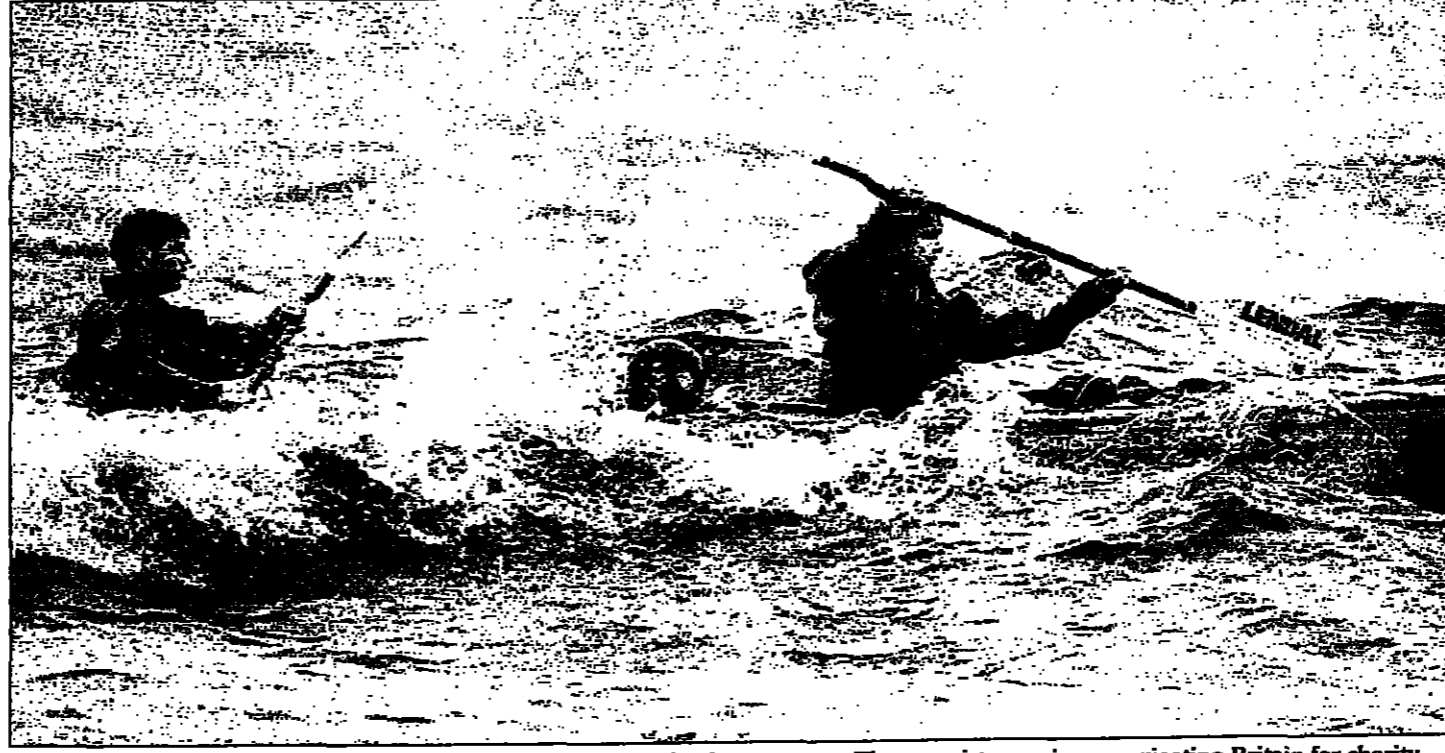
Parishioners of the Rev Christopher Gray, the clergyman killed outside his own church last week, gathered there in a sombre mood for the first Sunday communion since his death.

Palace decision

Buckingham Palace officials will discuss today whether to begin legal action against four freelance photographers they want to keep out of the Balmoral estate.

Flying into the record books

A seabird that nests on an Orkney island has become the world's oldest-known wild bird. The female fulmar, known as number 57, is more than 50 and scientists have been monitoring it on Eynhallow since the early 1950s.



Steve Macdonald, left, who is blind, and Peter Bray, off Scotland's west coast. The canoeists are circumnavigating Britain for charity

BUSINESS

Pay: The CBI has logged a downturn in manufacturing pay awards to an average of only 3.2 per cent in the three months to July, helping to squeeze inflation in the fifth year of economic expansion.

Ferries: P&O and Stena are expected to start talks on combining their cross-Channel ferry operations after being given permission by the Government to collaborate in order to raise fares.

Lloyds: The London insurance market faces the final challenge to its last-ditch rescue plan as a Virginia court this week as 34,000 names decide whether to accept the complex £3.2 billion settlement scheme.

ARTS

Pop festival: The 14-act V96 touring event kicks off in Chelmsford with only trees to spoil the view of a fine parade of British talent.

Fine Restoration: Love in a Wood, the play that set the template for the convoluted amorous intrigues in every Restoration comedy that followed.

Edinburgh low: The Festival's theatrical subdivision continues to disappoint with a satirical spin-off from a 16th-century play that lacks all the original's virtues.

Edinburgh high: On a much happier note, Bryn Terfel's voice manages the rare trick of filling the Usher Hall not just with an audience and a voice, but with a personality.

FEATURES

Hidden History: Continuing our occasional series, The Times unearths a tale of illicit love between a privileged but naive young wife and a dashing prince.

Old hatreds: Six years after Communism's collapse, racist tones are creeping back into the political vocabulary in eastern Europe.

Dear father: Somerset Maugham's last years were marked by a family feud, but his only child's love remains undiminished.

MIND AND MATTER

Spare flesh: Are we really what we eat? Junk food and a lazy life may play a part in obesity, but increasingly scientists believe genes may control weight.

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

Richard Wilson creates mayhem in the Serpentine Gallery

LAW

The case that has taken 16 years, 50 court appearances and tens of thousands of pounds to win



SPORT

Football: Ruud Gullit's debut as Chelsea manager finished in a scoreless draw with Southampton at The Dell.

Cricket: England have called up Robert Croft, Glamorgan's off spinner, and dropped wicketkeeper Jack Russell for the final Test against Pakistan.

Golf: Emilee Klein, of the United States, won the Women's British Open Championship by seven strokes at Woburn.

Rugby union: New Zealand are poised for an historic series victory in South Africa after winning the opening tour match.

Equestrianism: Nelson Pessoa, of Brazil, 61, won his third Silk Cut Derby at Hickstead.

Paralympics: In Atlanta, Simon Jackson, the partially sighted judo fighter from Rochdale, won the gold medal again.

Racing: Lanfranco Dettori, the champion jockey, capped a brilliant comeback by winning the Prix Morny at Deauville on Bahamian Bounty.

NATIONAL LOTTERY

2, 28, 33, 39, 42, 44. Bonus: 46. One winner collects the £8.9 million jackpot. Another 18 tickets with five numbers and the bonus win £152,891 each.

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Trekies can tune in to the pilot with Jeffrey Hunter in Star Trek: The Cage (BBC2, 6.25). Reviewer: Peter Bernard finds lessons to be learnt from the Dionne quintuplets' lives.

OPINION

Stars and snipes

Mr Howard has to allay suspicions that this is but the first step towards an ID card that tells the State more than it has any business to know.

Bureaucratic haze

The summer's heat is here again, and so is the noxious cocktail that reddens eyes and kills asthmatics. Last year's promises have disappeared into a bureaucratic haze as thick and unpleasant as that over city centres.

Escape from Kandahar

Who did not rejoice with the seven dare-devil Russian hostages at their courageous escape from captivity in Afghanistan? It was a story worthy of James Bond.

COLEMAN

ROBERT BLAKE

Historically, the Conservatives have been seriously fragmented only when there is a question of policy so important and divisive that a really substantial group feels a major national interest is at stake.

PETER RIDDELL

The Government ought to be welcoming the utility regulators' activism as a means to highlight privatisation, one of its few big successes since 1979.

DEBATES

The Very Rev Eric Evans. Dean of St Paul's, Anne Kristen, Scottish actress; Professor Tadeus Reichstein, Nobel-prizewinning pharmacologist.

LETTERS

Collapse of civic identity: Roman Britain: changing gun laws, marriage vows, abortion; bell-ringing.

THE PAPERS

History is not proving a good adviser to King Hussein of Jordan. The popular explosions over bread prices are a carbon copy of the 1989 riots.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,250

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1 through 27 indicating the starting positions for the clues.

- ACROSS
1 As secret ring I organised could be (8).
9 Snake skin carried by a northern woman (8).
10 Tongue some devour dutifully (4).
11 Wood, for example? Yes and no (2-7).
13 Stories about the goddess (6).
14 National appeal involving Scandinavians (8).
15 Savvy lady's skirts in latest fashion (7).
16 Unrivaled Liberal dropped titled woman (7).
20 Continental converts are one-up (8).
22 Excursion requiring road toll (6).
23 Humble outlook of one threatened by the beak? (5,3,4).
25 Woman accommodating pupil? (4).

Aberlour advertisement: The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,249 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will receive a bottle of Aberlour single highland malt whisky.

TIMES WEATHERCALL

Table with weather forecasts for various regions including Greater London, Kent, Devon & Cornwall, etc.

AA ROADWATCH

Table with road closure information for various routes like M1, M2, M3, etc.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Table with sunrise and sunset times for various locations.

FORECAST

General: Much of England and Wales will be very hot with long sunny spells, but the west and southwest will become cloudier, with an increasing risk of thundery showers.

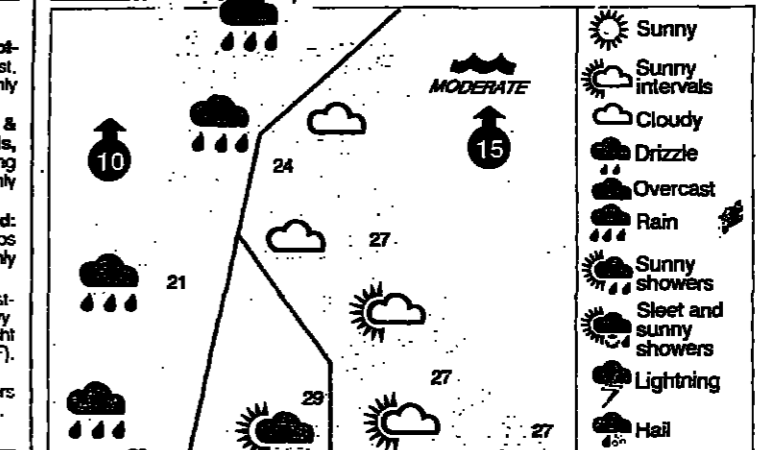
AROUND BRITAIN

Table with weather forecasts for various British cities like Aberdeen, Edinburgh, London, etc.

ABROAD

Table with weather forecasts for various international cities like Moscow, Tokyo, Sydney, etc.

NOON TODAY



HIGH TIDES

Table with high tide times for various coastal locations.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Table with highest and lowest temperature records for various locations.

Lifeboats advertisement: Total number of lives saved so far this year: 336. Total number of lifeboat launches so far this year: 2,017. Cost to RNLI per day: £173,000. Cost to taxpayer: £0. To make a donation, telephone: 0800 543210.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, partially obscured and containing various text and graphics.